



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

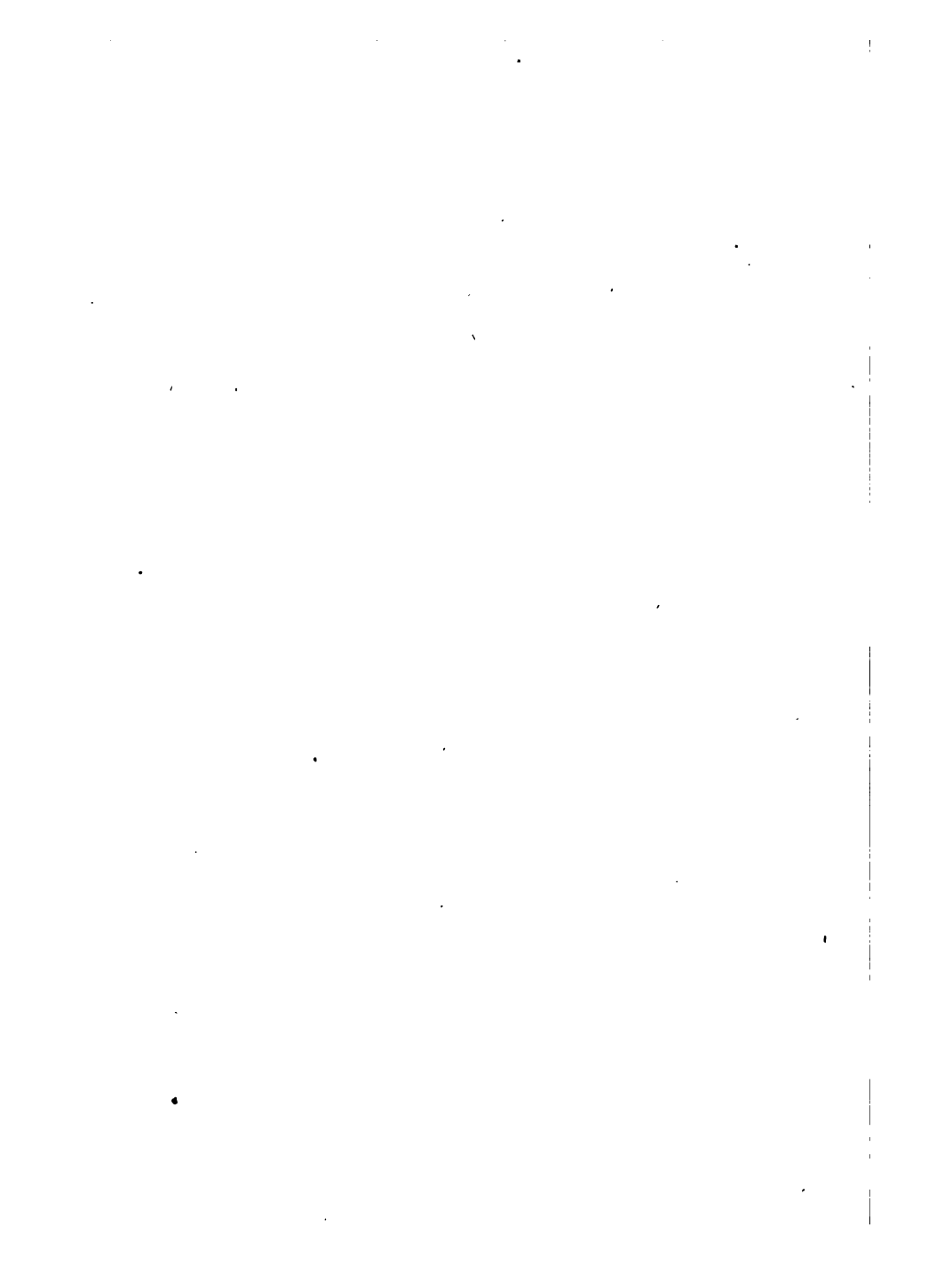
About Google Book Search

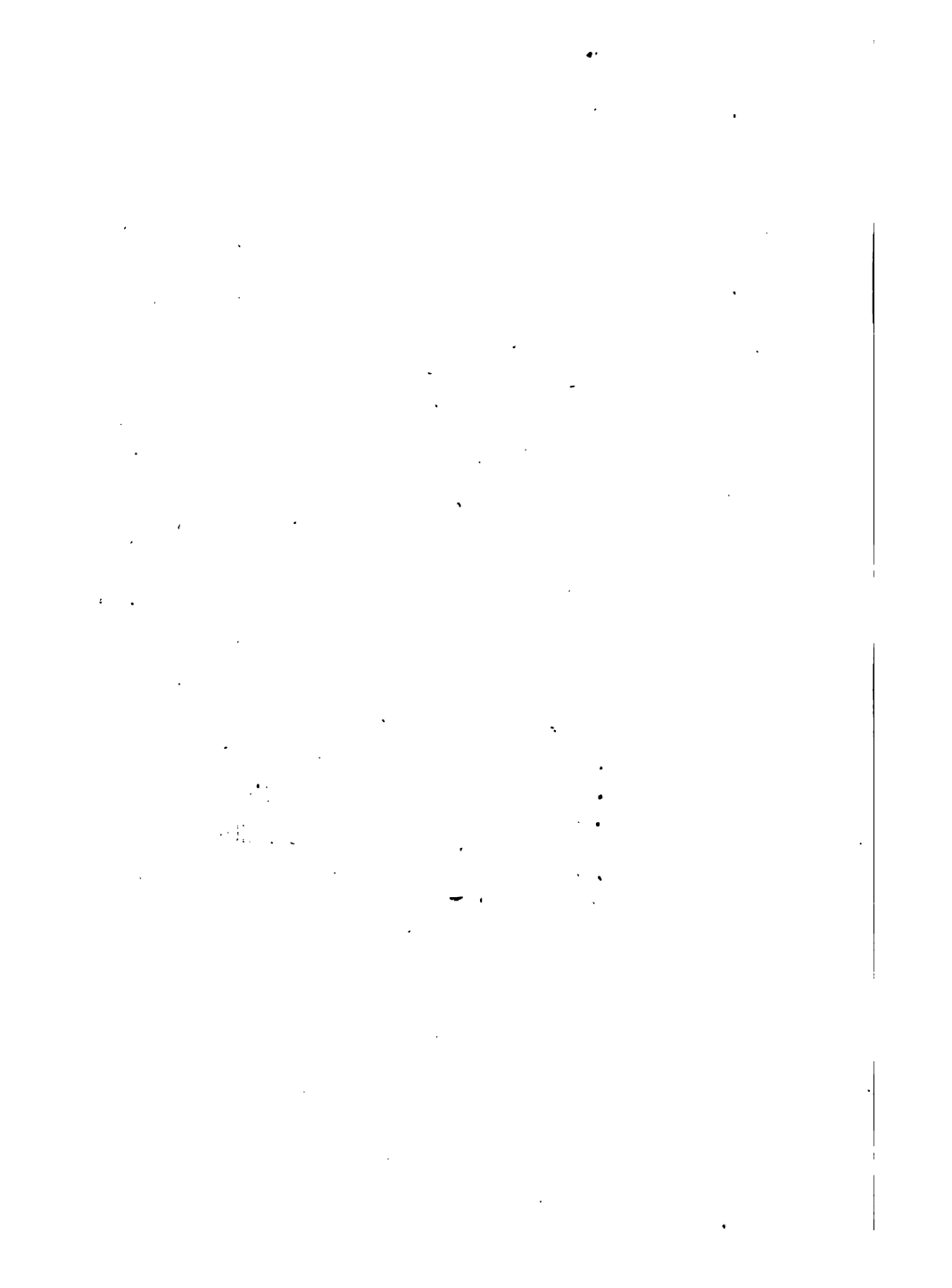
Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>











שמעו זאת

OR,

THE MOUNTAIN MYSTERY;

AN APOCALYPSE PROCLAIMING OPENLY

THE DEEP SECRET OF THE UNIVERSE,

WHICH IS ALSO

THE HIDDEN WISDOM OF PROPHECY AND MYTHOLOGY,

THE CENTRAL TRUTH OF PHILOSOPHY,

THE KEY OF NATURAL HISTORY AND SCIENCE,

THE BASIS OF MORALS, AND

THE FINAL CAUSE OF ALL RELIGIONS,

IN ITS PRACTICAL RELATION TO THE

GREAT SOCIAL REVOLUTION,

NOW IMPENDING OVER THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD, AS PREDICTED
BY MEN OF WISDOM FROM EARLY TIMES.

BY HENRY R. S. DALTON, B.A., OXFON

הן אמת הפצת במחוז
ובסתם חכמה תודיעני

'Behold, thou art pleased with truth in the covered parts, and in the closed
part thou shalt cause me to know wisdom.'—Ps. li. 6.

London:

REMINGTON & Co., 5, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, W.C.
1878.

[All Rights reserved.]

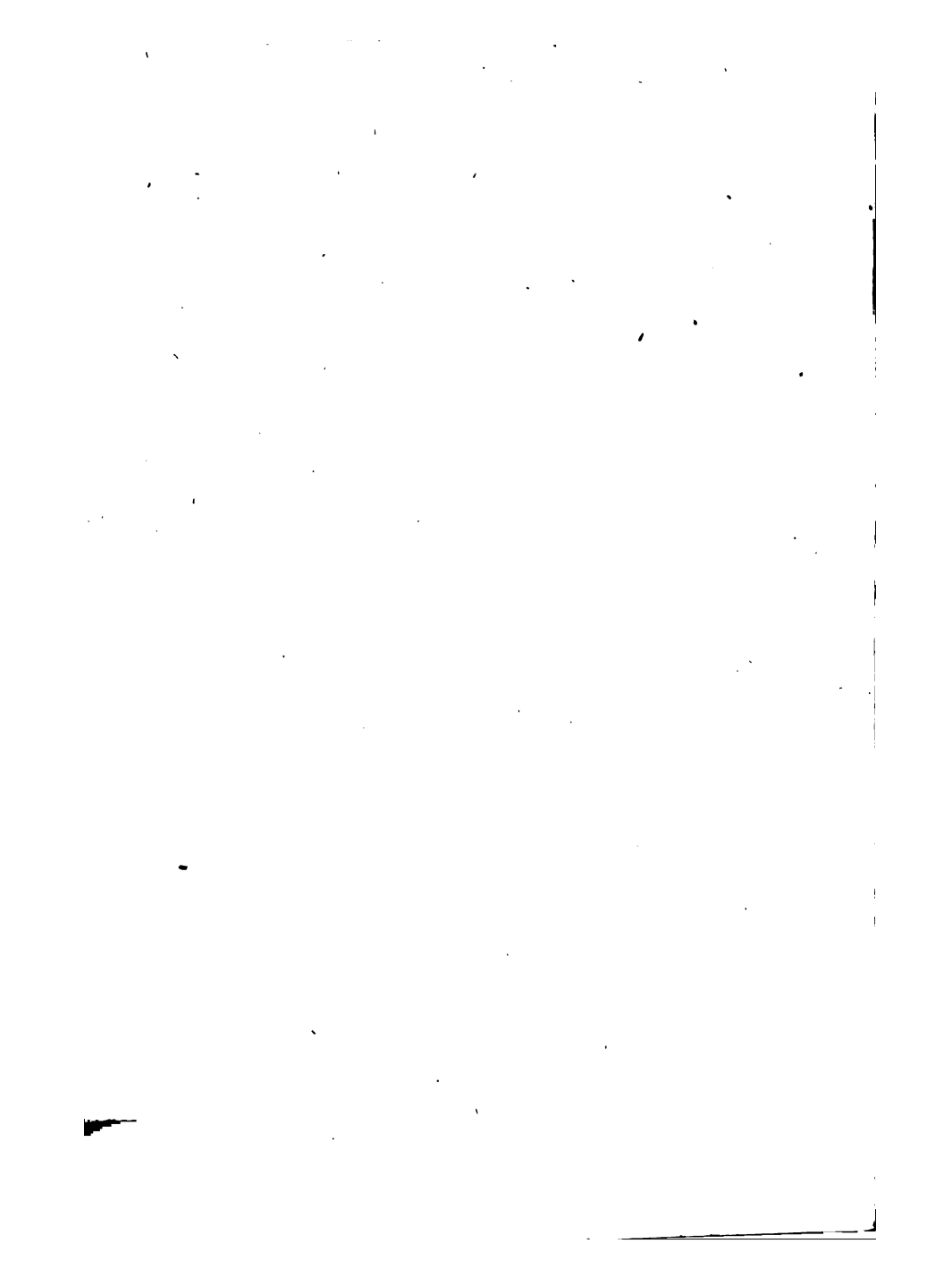


147. g. 610.

PREFACE.

Readers of the following Work are hereby warned at the outset against mere fragmentary perusal. To those who will patiently study the whole from beginning to end, the author is confident that no sort of harm can accrue from any part. But he will not be responsible for effects produced by disregard of this plain advice.

Signs are abroad to point the time when the primary stronghold of human prejudice and of a host of social evils may be destroyed, but only by making war on it with the naked sword and with no uncertain sound of the trumpet.



שֵׁמוֹת

OR,

THE MOUNTAIN MYSTERY.

INTRODUCTION TO PART I.

THE First Part consists of the Verse Text ; the Second Part of the Prose Commentary.

It will be observed that in the following Poem the long-established but worse than useless formality of making each line begin with a capital, in defiance of punctuation, has been discarded. The Author believes his metre to be original, and the subjoined is a technical statement of its rhythm.

					Rhyme.
1st line	—	—	—	—	A
2nd do.	.	.	.	.	B
3rd do.	.	.	.	.	B
4th do.	—	—	.	.	A
5th do.	.	.	—	—	B

Both muffled and iterated rhymes are now and then allowed, to vary the effect.

PROLOGUE.

JOEL.

Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in the Mountain of my Holiness ; let all the inhabitants of the earth be agitated, for the day of the Eternal cometh, for it is nigh. A day of darkness and gloom, a day of cloud and thick darkness : like dawn spread upon the mountains a people numerous and mighty ; there hath not in the universe been the like, nor shall be any more after it ere the lapse of generations. A fire devoureth before it, and behind it a flame flareth ; as a Garden of Pleasure is the earth before it, but behind it a wilderness of desolation ; moreover there hath been no escape from it. Like the appearance of horses is its appearance, and like cavalry so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots on the mountain tops shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth stubble, as a mighty people set in battle array. From before it

יואל

תקעו שופר בציון
והריעו בהר קדשי ירגזו
כל יושבי הארץ כי בא
יום יהוה כי קרוב : יום
חשך ואפלה יום ענן וערפל
כשחר פרש על ההרים
עם רב ועצום כמחו לא
נחיה מן העולם ואחריו
לא יוסף עד שני דור
ודור : לפניו אכלה אש
ואחריו תלחש להבה כגן
עדן הארץ לפניו ואחריו
מדבר שממה וגם פלישה
לא חיתה לו : כמראה
סוסים מראהו וכפרשים
כן ירדצון : כקול מרכבות
על ראשי ההרים ירקדון
כקול להב אש אכלה קש
כעם עצום ערוך מלחמה :

peoples shall shrink, all faces shall gather' blackness. Like heroes shall they run, like men of war shall they climb the wall; and they shall go every one in his ways, nor shall they deviate from their paths. Nor shall they push one another; they shall go every man on his highway; and what time they may come into collision with any weapon, they shall not be wounded. They shall rush about the city; they shall run upon the wall; they shall climb upon the houses; by means of the windows shall they enter like a thief. Before its face is earth agitated, heavens quake, sun and moon are dark, and stars withdraw their brightness. And the Eternal hath uttered his voice before his forces, for his camp is very great, for he is mighty that executeth his word; for great and very awful is the day of the Eternal, and who can abide it? Now then, saith the Eternal, turn ye even unto me with all your heart and with fasting and with weeping and with mourning. And rend your heart and not your garments, and turn unto the Eternal your Godhead; for he is gracious and kind, slow to anger and of great

מפניו יחילו עמים כל פנים
קבצו פארור : כנבורים
ירוצון כאנשי מלחמה יעלו
חומה ואיש בדרכיו ילכון
ולא יעבטון ארחותם :
ואיש אחיו לא ידחקון
נבר במסלתו ילכון ובעד
חשלה יפלו לא יבצעו :
בעיר ישקו בחומה ירצון
בבתים יעלו בעד החלונות
יבאו כננב : לפניו רגז
ארץ רעשו שמים שמש
וירח קדרו וכוכבים אספו
ננחם : ויהיה נתן קולו
לפני חילו כי רב מאד
מחנהו כי עצום עשה
דברו כי גדול יום יהוה
ונורא מאד ומי יכילנו :
וגם עתה נאם יהוה שבו
עדי בכל לבבכם ובצום
ובבכי ובמספד : וקרעו
לבבכם ואל בגדיכם ושובו
אל יהוה אלהיכם כי חנוי

mercy and repenteth him of the evil.

ורחום הוא ארך אפים ורב חסד ונחם על הרעה :

Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn meeting. Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the infants and sucklings of the breasts.

תקעו שופר בציון
קדשו צום קראו עצרת :
אספו עם קדשו קהל קבצו
זקנים אספו עוללים ויונקי
שדים

Let the priests the ministers of the Eternal weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Have pity, O Eternal! on thy people, and give not thy heritage to disgrace, that nations should rule over them : wherefore should they say among the peoples, Where is their God-head ?

בין האולם ולמזבח
יבכו הכהנים משרתי יהוה
ויאמרו חוסה יהוה על
עמך ואל תתן נחלתך
לחרפה למשל בם גוים
למה יאמרו בעמים איה
אלהיהם :

And it shall come to pass afterwards that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your elders shall dream dreams, your youths shall see visions. And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. And I will display signs in heavens and in earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness and the

והיה אחרי כן אשפוך
את רוחי על כל בשר ונבאו
בנים ובנותיכם זקנים
חלמות יחלמון בחוריכם
חזיונות יראו : וגם על
עבדים ועל השפחות
בימים ההם אשפוך את
רוחי : ונתתי מופתים
בשמים ובארץ דם ואש
ותמרות עשן : השמש

moon into blood, before the great and awful day of the Eternal come. And it shall be that whosoever will call upon the name of the eternal shall escape: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance as the Eternal hath said, and in the remnants whom the Eternal doth call.

יחפך לחשך וחירה לדם
לפני בוא יום יהוה הגדול
והנורא: והיה כל אשר
יקרא בשם יהוה ימלט
כי בחר ציון ובירושלם
תהיה פליטה כאשר אמר
יהוה ובשרידים אשר יהוה
קרא:

ISAIAH.

In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah: We have a city of vigor; salvation will he appoint for ramparts and trench. Open ye the gates, that a just nation which preserveth imparted truths may enter in. A confiding mind thou wilt keep in the peace of peace, because in thee it trusteth. Trust ye in the Eternal for ever and ever, for in JAH the Eternal is a rock of ages. For he maketh the dwellers of the height submit; a towering town he shall bring it down, he shall bring it down to earth, he shall bring it in contact with the dust. The foot shall tread it down, the feet of the afflicted, the steps of the needy. The path for the

ישעיה

ביום ההוא יושר
חשיר הזה בארץ יהודה
עיר עז לנו ישועה ישית
חומות וחל: פתחו שערים
ויבא גוי צדיק שמר אמנים:
יצר סמוך תצר שלום
שלום כי כך בטוח: בטחו
ביהוה עדי עד כי ביה
יהוה צור עולמים: כי
חשח ישבי מרום קריה
נשגבה ישפילנה ישפילת
עד ארץ יגיענה עד עפר:
תרמענה רגל רגלי עני
כעמי דלים: ארח לצדיק

just one is in rectitudes; level dost thou roll the wheel-rut of the just. Indeed by the path of thy judgments, Eternal, have we expected thee; the soul's desire is to thy name and to the remembrance of thee. With my soul have I desired thee at night; indeed with my inmost spirit will I seek thee early; for according as thy judgments belong to earth, the inhabitants of the globe will learn justice. Let the wicked be favored, by no means will he learn justice; in the earth of potentialities* will he play the fool, and by no means will he behold the majesty of the Eternal. O Eternal! thy hand is lifted up; by no means will they behold: they shall behold and shall be ashamed: the people's disfavor, nay, thine adversaries' own fire shall consume them. Eternal, thou wilt ordain peace for us, for thou also hast wrought all our works for us. O Eternal our Godhead! other lords beside thee have had the mastery over us: in thee thyself alone will we recognize thy Name. They are dead, they can by no means live; they are ghosts, they shall by no means

מישרים ישר מעגל צדיק
תפלס: אף ארח משפמך
יהוה קוינוך לשמך ורזכך
תאות נפש: נפשי איתך
בלילה אף רוחי בקרבי
אשחרך כי כאשר משפמך
בארץ צדק למדו ישבי
תבל: יחן רשע כל למד
צדק בארץ נכחות יעול
ובל יראה גאות יהוה:
יהוה רמה ירך כל יהזיון
יחזו ויבשו קנאת עם אף
אש צריך תאכלם:
יהוה תשפת שלום לנו
כי גם כל מעשינו פעלת
לנו: יהוה אלהינו
בעלונו אדנים זולתך לבד
בך נזכיר שמך: מתים כל

* *Earth of potentialities.* Our earthy or gross material conditions are especially those of probation, of opportunities to be used or wasted.

rise : therefore hast thou visited and exterminated them and made all their memory to perish.

Go my people, enter thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee ; hide thyself as it were for a little moment until indignation be overpast. For behold, the Eternal cometh out of his place to visit the iniquity of the inhabitant of the earth thereon ; and the earth shall disclose its blood and shall no more cover its slain.

Behold, the Eternal maketh the earth empty and maketh it waste and subverteth its face and scattereth abroad its inhabitants. And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest ; as with the servant, so with his lord ; as with the maid-servant, so with her lady ; as with the buyer, so with the seller ; as with the lender, so with the borrower ; as with the creditor, so with the debtor. The earth shall be utterly emptied and utterly spoiled, for the Eternal hath spoken this word. The earth is in woe and demoralization, the globe is languid and demoralized, the

יחיו רפאים בל יקמו לכן
פקדת ותשמידם ותאבד
כל זכר למו :

לך עמי בא בחדריך
וסגר דלתיד בעדך חבי
כמעט רגע עד יעבור זעם :
כי חנה יחיה יצא ממקומו
לפקד עון ישב הארץ עליו
וגלתה הארץ את דמיה
ולא תכסה עוד על
הרזניה :

חנה יחיה בוקק הארץ
ובולקה ועיה פניה וחפיץ
ישביה : וחיה כעם ככהן
כעבד כאדניו כשפחה
כגברתה כקונה כמוכר
כמלוה כלוה כנשה כאשר
נשא בו : חבוק | תבוק
הארץ וחבזו | תבזו כי
יחיה דבר את הדבר הזה :
אבלה נבלה הארץ אמללה
נבלה תבל אמללו מרום
עם הארץ : והארץ חנפה

haughty people of the earth do languish. The earth also is sullied under its inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws, slurred over the statute, neutralized the universal covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell thereon shall be held guilty; therefore are the inhabitants of the earth burnt up and few men left.

תחת ישביה כי עברו
תורת חלפו חק חפרו
ברית עולם: על כן אלה
אכלה ארץ ויאשמו ישבי
בה על כן חרו ישבי ארץ
ונשאר אנוש מזער:

The town of confusion is broken down; every house is shut against entrance.

נשברה קרית תחו סגר
כל בית מבוא:

In the city is left desolation and the gate is smitten with ruin.

נשאר בעיר שמה
ושאיה יכת שער:

When thus it shall be in the midst of the earth among the peoples, as the shaking of an olive tree, as the grape-gleaning when vintage is done: they shall lift up their voice, they shall cry aloud for the majesty of the Eternal, they shall shout from the sea. Wherefore in the Channels glorify ye the Eternal, in the Isles of the Sea the name of the Eternal, Godhead of Israel.

כי כה יחיה בקרב
הארץ בתוך העמים כנקף
זית כעללת אם כלח בציר:
חמה ישאו קולם ירנו
בגאון יחזה צהלו מים:
על כן בארים כבדו יחזה
באיי חים שם יחזה אלהי
ישראל

And the moon shall blush and
the sun shall be ashamed, when
the Eternal of hosts doth reign
in mount Zion and in Jerusalem
and before his ancients gloriously.

וחפרה חלבנה ובושה
תחמה כי מלך יהוה צבאות
בהר ציון ובירושלם ונגד
זקניו כבוד :

BOOK I.

CHAPTER I.

VERSE I.

When the accountable mind is laid aside ;
and' confusedly crowd the ghosts of sleep ;
and unbidden the chainless passions keep
a short-lived revel ; then oft are opened wide
the flood-gates of the ultra-sepulchral Deep.

II.

Darkly dreamily rolled the woodland stream
by dim terraces on whose face of stone
long the colorless moss and weed had grown,
and turf had withered in summer's scorching beam,
to which the forest's innermost nooks are known.

III.

Yet the pine-forest shade was fresh and cold ;
soft mysterious was the greeny gloom :
song's first violets do more freely bloom
and purer treasures to fancy's eye unfold
when sombre bowers or grottoes their youth entomb.

IV.

There the nightingales found a twilight haunt
quite impervious to the fiery ray,
whence their melodies overflowed the day :
afar a spray-rotted stem bent black and gaunt
across the bass-toned cataract's craggy way.

V.

On a slippery bank I seemed to rest,
sometimes ankle-deep in the chilly flood,
where the shadows had flung their thickest hood
on sluggish eddies that wore a tinted vest
reflected from the semi-transparent wood.

VI.

Shade and solitude ! not for slumbrous ease
your mysterious shrines would I invade ;
sombre dells and cool caverns are not made
for inconsiderate sloth ; retreats like these
command the mind, in heavenly lights arrayed,

VII.

living pleasures to drink without restraint,
poured from fountains of more internal love,
felt in sensuous chords that deeper move,
than this corruptible flesh can likely paint,
or carnal thoughts in uttermost tension prove.

VIII.

Who is God, if not BEAUTY ? * Who beside
fuseth differences between the creeds ?
SHE alone in variety all needs
of every soul can supply : e'en those that hide
and shun the light, at Beauty's touch burst their seeds.

IX.

Beauty, nevertheless, must have a Form ;
love's attraction must to an Object draw ;
each in following its eternal law :
what, then ? have beautiful things a final form ?
toward a single object all passions draw ?

X.

As for water-brooks pants the dying beast,
so unquenched doth imagination yearn,
so the feverous flesh is stirred to burn,
O LORD IDEAL ! to briefly feel, at least,
the high ecstatic fervor of thy return

* *Beauty* is the final result of the fundamental law of Proportion or the dynamic relation of numbers which underlies all the phenomena and is correlate with all the agencies of nature.

XI.

from gross darkness of this remotest state,
where material weights still bind thee fast,
to perfection which shall prevail at last,
when struggling Order, with hard-won crown elate,
shall from his throne the ancient Usurper cast.

XII.

LORD IDEAL ! rend thou the evil veil
evil habit hath drawn before our eyes :
when thy Beauty doth in its Strength arise,
infernall influences of darkness fail,
and day, thy symbol, reigns in the summer skies.

XIII.

Then the holier loves, which make the Man,
come forth purified from their prison-cells,
from strait hardships where each in bondage dwells
to adverse circumstance and beneath the ban
of retrogressive agencies from the hells :

XIV.

forth they come, and with undivided will
round their proper delights adherent grow ;
drinking placidly of the overflow
which inexhaustibly from their fountains still
thine image-wearing ministers can bestow.

XV.

Surely all things of flesh corrupt shall die,
all of spirit shall thrive in gorgeous bloom,
filling richly the ever-widening room
of priceless knowledge with power that may defy
the ghastly fears which haunt superstition's gloom.

XVI.

Darkly frigidly then though roll our stream
down the tortuous stony bed of time ;
yet 'tis water of life ; and stones and slime
essential masonry doth queen Beauty deem
to build a temple where she may reign sublime ;

XVII.

where no worshipper at the opening gate
from her fountain shall world-wrought lies debar ;
none shall abdicate his peculiar star ;
but individual gifts and tasks shall wait
for Her pure light to sanctify what they are.

XVIII.

What is happiness where the heat and light
of Her countenance guilty doubts obscure ?
what such pleasures of sense as not endure
an aspiration to be create more bright,
more wide, more warmly sensible and more pure ?

XIX.

Show the loveliness of thine angel's face
mid that whirlpool whereon all thought is lost,
on reciprocal jets of feeling tost,
the hot vertiginous impulse which apace
wraps membranes in electrical close accost:

XX.

or appoint us to some directer path
leading inward to thy divine abode,
undefiledly widening through a mode
whereby each faculty, free from blot or scath,
shall pierce to where its proper repast is stowed.

XXI.

What we ask for is some unmingled cup
brimming o'er with convergent tides of heat,
spouting loftily where their forces meet
in fountain pillars of flame resplendent up,
to spread and melt in languid reaction sweet;

XXII.

whence as out of a river we may drink
inexhaustible torrents of vitality,
drowned in deluges pure of immortality,
in broad abandonment given up to sink,
feeding and fed with ravenous actuality,

XXIII.

actuality of the fusing strain
every sensuous centre sends along
in a billowy onset fierce and strong,
its own exuberant charge of love to rain
and faint beneath a counter-impulsive throng.

XXIV.

Such enjoyment would have its noble end
in augmenting the realm of good within ;
every inner desire to prayer being kin,
and every inner delight a means to rend
the earth-engendered shackles of selfish sin :

XXV.

they, moreover, alone have power to weave
diverse idiosyncrasies in one
astral system of heaven, whose central sun
art thou, IDEAL ! Thy pleasure to conceive
makes heaven of earth : on earth let thy will be done.

CHAPTER II.

VERSE I.

Gentle summer-wood winds among the firs
from their rustling career die hushed away ;
and unquivering sleeps the ruddy ray
of peering sunset ; and no wild creature stirs,
no winged intruder chatters on branch or spray :

II.

only armies of gnats with buzzing hum
swarm phosphoric above the placid glass
of a motionless side-pool ; quick they pass
first from then into the light, recede and come,
in distance melt, or sink on the reeds and grass :

III.

evening's loneliness blending with its peace ;
solemn shadows relieving mellow gleams ;
piny darkness on-brooding rocks and streams ;
the mien and circumstance of mature decrease,
that yet with rich and softened effulgence teems.

IV.

Dark and darker the greeny shadows creep;
fragrant turpentine odors now exhale
from the branches ; the opallic west grows pale,
seen through their openings ; some gold-edged masses
above the sun ; quiescent are lea and vale. [sleep

V.

Day was passing ; these undigested fancies
yet no practical moral had marked out :
just like other men I had faced about
and turned my back to that Sun whose human glances
with warm life fill the vast joyless void of doubt.

VI.

He who worships he knows not clearly what,
through cold reverence for the 'Infinite,'
is like one who the grape-juice cordial bright
should spurn and skyward his small cup elevate
to dip it in ethereal seas of light.

VII.

Could the 'Infinite' make response thereto
but by emptiness and dissatisfaction?
man's intelligence, stunted by contraction,
becomes his folly: believing cannot do
discernment's work, religion right foolish action.

VIII.

Far from this, the imagination's bent
yields more readily to the first false charm
things of substance may offer, and the harm
is centripetal and deadly; good intent
shows lifeless; evil—palpable, sound and warm:

IX.

hence its touch is permitted, then embraced:
pompous flattery while the mouth expends
on a shadowy Nothing, downward tends
the living nature: good heaven is amply graced
with sounding words, while hell gains its solid ends.

X.

From the insect-frequented weedy marge
backward into a tall-sprung bed of fern,
disappointed and soured, I seemed to turn
and there recumbent let thought go range at large
through morbid scenes that similar tastes concern.

XI.

Rise, ye Dæmons of sense, whate'er ye be,
rise and ease me this bootless mental toil;
spread your dusky vans, hasten to the spoil!
the pale thin virtues are fled,—so let them flee,
appear! and show your treasures of lowest soil.

XII.

'Soil!' repeated the echoes from a cave
whose blind mouth amid tangled brushwood yawned
close at hand where the terrace cedars awned
with their thick canopy half the mute conclave
of pines so dark already that no day dawned

XIII.

on their stems, and the spreading roots of larch
there, huge serpentine monsters, on the ground
lay invisible—'Soil!' The rocks around
and, ruined terraces from each crumbling arch
in tone commanding verbalized back the sound.

XIV.

Then a vision its advent heralded
 by the reek of a dense obnoxious steam:
 all the air grew oppressive and did seem
 to curtain round me as if I had been led
 within the dim domain of a turbid dream.

XV.

In the gathering darkness rose a clamor
 like the mutual rage of beasts of prey,
 tearing quelling each other in the fray
 of every discord of sense: the baneful glamor
 grew strong and stronger; judgment was scared away.

XVI.

Then emerged from the cave a fearful Shape,
 couched in faces of satyr and of hog,
 each one grinning and moist with slimes that clog
 and choke development: at me thus did gape
 the form and power unsanctified of the Dog.*

XVII.

Like a dog with a lion's shaggy mane
 and a lion's appalling countenance,
 and with teeth like the wild boar's ripping lance,
 and eyes red-glaring with fiendish fire insane
 and fiendish power to fascinate by their glance;

* הצילה מחרב נפשי מיד כלב יחידתי

'Deliver my soul from the sword, mine Ideal from the hand
 (power) of the Dog.'—Ps. xxii. 20.

XVIII.

not entirely repulsive to the view,
not unhandsome was that gigantic brute,
resting carelessly, savage, stern and mute,
his tongue like flickering flame, the foamy dew
slow-dropping from his terrible fangs acute.

XIX.

On they came like a cloud, the monstrous group,
their intemperate swollen eyes regarding
him their master, who now and then awarding
a castigation with heavy paw or croup,
gave madness rein, all seemly respect discarding.

XX.

Soon they hovered almost within my reach :
every bestial front was on me turned,
while its wallowing limbs and carcase burned
and fumed redundant ; each monster preyed on each,
and all their strength ferociously met and churned.

XXI.

Under, over, they hurtled, rolled and crushed,
teeth and muscles strained hard in rabid grasp ;
chafing, furious, blind, with throttled gasp,
they yet insatiably gorged themselves and rushed
the mire-trod veil of order to tear and rasp.

XXII.

Terror, anger and pain their howlings mixed
with the brutish descant of low delights :
all is selfish in those unholy rites :
would no acridty in such tastes be fixed,
did strife and hatred fan not their appetites.

XXIII.

These are they who were blasted by the curse
love, degraded, upon their heads let fall
while they dwelt in the flesh and spurned the call
to own love's Deity ; now condemned to nurse
their joys unmasked and taste of their proper gall.

XXIV.

But contemptuously their tyrant god
rocking lay like a vessel on the billow
or the wind-lifted bough of weeping willow :
on that gross animal mass his huge feet trod ;
its heaving softness served him for couch and pillow.

XXV.

Still more thickly the horrid black-mouthed cave
went on vomiting phantom-peopled gloom
like a smoke, and new goblin shapes made loom
above, around me ; these all to license gave
their energies ; the bad for the worse made room.

XXVI.

Thus the light of the sky was wholly hid ;
suffocation and horror o'er me swept ;
dim and purblind obscurity fast kept
my senses' outlets ; in vain I feebly bid
the spell depart ; my self-recollection slept.

XXVII.

Ask not whether, in other circumstance,
ye or I had become e'en such as they
who the Dæmon of Earth did here obey :
they are not far from his realm who look askance
at sacred things in light of an evil ray.

XXVIII.

Lo ! with brilliancy, on my right, a flash,
opening many more sights till then concealed,
lit the grove and long crowds of stems revealed,
then left them darkened and shaken with a crash
that overhead in splitting concussions pealed.

XXIX.

Hissed and rattled the mingled rain and hail
on the tree-tops and boughs in outer air ;
but impenetrable was that repair
wherein I lay ; and the fear did not avail
to moderate the dissonant revel there.

XXX.

This it anyhow did—it broke the spell,
roused me, startled away my lethargy,
braced me up with resolve to turn and try
if, having favored been by these guests from hell,
might not the better world with its own reply.

XXXI.

‘ Come, celestial light,’ I said, ‘ and lift
‘ thy blest countenance, in whatever guise,
‘ on these shadows of death, that I may rise
‘ and trample on them ; for life is in thy gift,
‘ and thou wilt not cohabit but with the wise.

XXXII.

‘ Come, celestial love ; I know thou art,
‘ though from sight and from mind excluded here :
‘ in the height or the depth, thou still art near ;
‘ thy tabernacle is in all nature’s heart
‘ though discord’s brand its ramifications sear.

XXXIII.

'Take some palpable form, that I may feel
'thou art more than a dead subjective essence :
'let me fully enjoy thine effervescence
'in perfect beauty ; this madness haste to heal
'by thine o'erruling succur and coalescence.'

XXXIV.

Then the Eternal from out that darkness spake,
not by word, and made answer, not by sign,
but directly, immediately. Incline
your ear now, saith the Eternal who doth make
both heaven and earth and all thereof One Divine.

XXXV.

Seemeth it but a small thing in your eyes,
O ye people ! that Godhead should be nigh,
not afar in the searchless waste of sky ?
Shall at the Infinite straining make you wise,
while God in earth ye pass never-heeding by ?

XXXVI.

When the thunder-storm's sudden angry bluster
hushed as though it had heard the Holy Name ;
and where lately down-blazed the forkéd flame,
clear globules silver and sparkling in a cluster
dropped not, so soft cool air through the branches came ;

XXXVII.

From the side whence the tempest had approached
now a visual form of love advanced,
how I know not ; for reason lay entranced
by concentration, while on my sight encroached
the advent of ineffable glory glanced

XXXVIII.

from virginity of the soul arrayed
in the mystical light of girlish eyes,
half averted at first to exorcise
by other faculties and without their aid
whate'er our pure communion might scandalize.

XXXIX.

In voluminous robe like dazzling snow
on the glacier's sunbeam-swathed cone
Her corporeal presence on me shone :
great weight of hair richly cloaked in massive flow
the face and figure language could ne'er make known.

XL.

This divine apparition full advened,
all around underwent a sudden change :
crouching, trembling, the fiends would fain go range
through outer deserts and hide ; aghast they screened
their tardy shame by many devices strange.

XLI.

Fallen, miserable, the base default
blotted every one's spiteful visage bent
in confusion to earth. And since relent
his fierce will could not yet dared not make assault,
the Dæmon writhed convulsed, then his hour was spent.

XLII.

Crawling off on lame feet to seek the cave,
he no cohort of revelers retained :
where their banquet the trodden herbs had stained
an oleaginous smoke rose wave on wave ;
HER fire had burnt them up, and not one remained.

CHAPTER III.

VERSE I.

Thus released, though with sight not yet undimmed,
low I knelt oriented to the vision :
short-lived then were my doubt and indecision :
a sapphire chalice in Her right hand o'erbrimmed ;
some drops spilled on me, ending all blind division

II.

in my feelings : here was religion's food,
faith's substantial most real full reward,
faith supplanted by sight, a sight to guard
its rapt beholder that no recurring mood
of lower bents look back to that smoking sward.

III.

Mute I was with a silence which expresses
more at times than unwieldy words convey,
e'en when diffidence shy not blocks their way ;
until I tasted the delicate caresses
of Her archangel robe, which upon me lay :

IV.

Yea, Her robe ; there is favor in the clothing
of such Presence, when purposely let sweep
on its votary's head while he doth keep
his prostrate vigil of adoration, loathing
all pleasure save to drown in the luscious deep

V.

of that love which he feels is streaming in,
overwhelming, beyond his strength to bear ;
yet cares not for his strength, athirst to wear
the dewy garment on every fibrous skin
that separates his spirit from outer air.

VI.

Then my smouldering heat flamed forth in speech :
'Thou who dwellest between the altar's horns !
'Alpha, Omega ! thou whom love adorns
'with light and light with its love, hear me beseech
'thy transcendental sweetness to bruise these thorns

VII.

'in my being, to hover near me still,
'quit me not in the dusky time of need ;
'suffer not that thine absence should exceed
'my patience limit : already I have the will,
'accord thou me the power to uproot this weed

VIII.

' which outgrows and with prickly contact hinders
' the development of thine incarnation :
' permeate me with such communication
' as shall for ever reduce the foe to cinders :
' awake me with thy breath of resuscitation.

IX.

' Set thy foot if thou wilt upon my face :
' more delicious it were to please thy whim—
' could such be—than to wrestle limb and limb
' in mere voluptuousness devoid of grace,
' O thou whom pleasures gird as thy cherubim !

X.

' Thou alone art my guard and strong defence
' from yon treacherous fiend's ungodly spells :
' in thy hand is the only power which quells
' their operation ; to thee I struggle hence
' across the multitudinous noisome hells.

XI.

' Let their vapors ascend and foul the air ;
' let its foulness about my passage be :
' no defiling contagion need I flee
' upon the death-shadow slope while thou art there,
' thy rod and staff, love's beauty, supporting me.

XII.

'Thou before me a table shalt prepare
'right in front of my rabid jealous foes,
'e'en the white-spread soft banquet. Sharon's rose !
'thy rounded limbs can display. I say not spare
'my life, nay, take it; thine let this corpse enclose.

XIII.

'Name or show me the vilest depth of dust,
'into which I may cast myself foregone
'for thy sanctity's heel to trample on :
'O make me fuel for thine unearthly lust,
'which thrives its subject's joy-forced confessions on !

XIV.

'Can I more ? Is there more complete surrender
'of each part and the whole of human frame
'or of innermost self, the vital flame,
'than I, embracing thy garment's skirt, here tender ?
'Declare it : my resolve will remain the same !'

XV.

'Taste then,' said the archangel, Her aspect
glowing fully upon me as She spake :
ah ! how suddenly all my nerves did quake
with keen emotion ; no more could I collect
my dizzy thoughts nor keep my self-rule awake.

XVI.

Mark how helplessly, when the lightning's eye,
downward glancing upon a lonely oak,
promptly finishes with a single stroke
the work long toiled at by that rude passer by,
the northwind wrapt in winter's white flaky cloak ;

XVII.

loudly snapping its roots, the great tree bows
as to threaten all things that under grow,
then comes lumbering down and, humbled low
on heath or mead, unresistingly allows
its sap to ebb, all hungriest damps to inflow.

XVIII.

So on swallowing one accorded drop
of the empyrean essence, sharp impelled
as a glance, in a moment I lay felled,
supine, ecstatic ; all pulses seemed to stop,
then rush as if my life-blood to Her out-welled,

XIX.

and Her strength in its place transfused my veins
not with my will but Hers ; my heaven was then
utter yielding, eyes closed, head back, the ken
of all Her beauty impressed with joys like pains,
joys seldom felt by ultimate-dwelling men,

XX.

on my membranous surfaces in order,
inward strenuously from gross to fine,
touching quicks that their hoard will not resign
to fleshly appetites, subtlest parts that border
on naked life. Her pure sacramental wine,

XXI.

having entered my heart, produced a flush
warm reactive from those transporting chills
which the violence of impressive thrills
had sent tumultuous through me in a gush
intense unintermittent of trickling rills.

XXII.

Then I opened mine eyes and felt a smile
sunning o'er me, illuming all the mind,
bidding feverous joy its healing find
in soft fruition of perfect rest, the while
Her voice—that salve of passion—low, love-refined,

XXIII.

penetrated, refreshed and vivified
with its watery tones of tenderness,
with its gentle luxurious hushed caress,
my prostrate spirit, whose thirst had been supplied
in measure barely separate from excess.

XXIV.

' Rest now peacefully from thy granted prayer,
' rest and listen : thou ownest me thy life,
' thy divinity, whom that polished knife,
' that cold smooth instrument, custom, cannot pare
' to base conceits nor jealousy move to strife.

XXV.

' Trust me therefore with all the cumbrous weight,
' all the heterogeneous mass of thought
' which inhabits thy mind : have I not brought
' a sweet replenishment to reciprocate
' the strong assay thy love had toward me wrought ?

XXVI.

' Doubt not then that I can embrace thee wholly,
' every virtue and every frail defect ;
' that thy faculties waste I can connect
' with their ulterior use, regarding solely
' the means to cherish elevate and correct

XXVII.

' all thy passions and make them bear me fruit,
' I supplying in turn their full repast
' as they severally at my feet are cast :
' keep from me nothing ; then will my strength recruit
' thy defalcations, numberless though and vast.

XXVIII.

I must penetrate thee to regulate
' thy propensities by their pleasures' sway,
' each detracting from its transgressive way
' by substitution of order correlate
' with those disordered laws it would else obey.

XXIX.

' Let no secret, howe'er it seem unfit
' for confession to virgin's tender ear,
' lie unopened between us : do not fear
' that cold aversion from aught thou mayest commit
' in singleness of heart can estrange thee here.

XXX.

' Shrink not thou from the love of inner heaven ;
' we but utilize all repented fault,
' not abhor it; we study to exalt
' to grander purposes stronger passions, riven
' from wrong's barred passage where they did blindly halt.

XXXI.

' Come then nearer and let thy weight repose,
' all the weight of thy troubled mind, on Her
' whom the Eternal decrees thy comforter,
' on thy CALLISTE.* thy chequered self disclose
' as to thyself, with me as thy soul confer.

XXXII.

' Once I charge thee again, make me the book
' into which shall be copied clean and fair
' all the memories of thy past which share
' in free volitional act; nor pause to look
' how morbid be some transient thoughts laid bare.

XXXIII.

' Their injurious quality will vanish
' at the contact of mine intelligence:
' that alone which containeth no offence
' but only value, shall my influx not banish,
' the flood of my fruition not hurry hence.

* CALLISTE, KAAAETH, (*she*) *Most Beautiful*.

XXXIV.

' Cast thy troubles on me as now thy passion :
' I will give thee a sure deliverance
' from distorted conceptions and entrance
' thy griefs with ecstasy. Waive all timid fashion,
' unrobe thy secret springs to my warm advance !'

CHAPTER IV.

VERSE I.

All was silence again : the deeper shades,
twilight summer-dusk, had been stealing on :
looming landscapes had long begun to don
their cloak of dew-mist : dim avenues and glades
made common gloom ; perspective and size were gone.

II.

Through a gap in the sombre branches' woof,
leaving visible one clear slate-blue patch,
welcome peep of the sky, the sight might catch
a glimmer such as, beneath the distant roof
of some sequestered cot, rustic mud-walled thatch,

III.

cheers the darkness of winter fog and rain
on a dreary morass ; but silver white,
mild unvarying beam-haired lamp of night,
the evening star shed its forked effulgence twain,
whereon it seemed contemplative fixed-upright.

IV.

While beside me, come now within my reach,
stood in dimness of majesty divine
She the life-tree the sanctifying vine
whose juice could nourish my roots and gently teach
their growth with Her pure tendrils to intertwine.

V.

Need I say ? when Her exhortation ended,
my obedience was entire and quick :
had She ordered me like a slave to lick
the dust She trampled, I had not felt released [thick.
from that command, though brambles and thorns lay

VI.

This indeed had been easy to the task
laid in fact on my courage to fulfil :
how determined soe'er may be the will
to falter nowise, 'tis often vain to ask
old habit's force to rest in abeyance still.

VII.

Why should man to his God so dread disclosure
out beyond their originative pale
of the passes wherein his values fail ?
To Her not after the flesh he shuns exposure,
yet trembles lest She rend his soul's flimsy veil

VIII.

Is it, is it, O men ! because ye teach
disintegrity to the perfect-born ;
alternating twixt flattery and scorn
of all her youthful beginnings, that she reach
grown womanhood, of attributes female shorn ?

IX.

Leave that now. Though it cost me much to yield
unprepared and ungarbled and intact
every evil imagining or fact
to Virtue's cauterization, and not shield
by seeming aught which solid advantage lacked ;

X.

followed pleasant and most complete surprise,
when I found myself braced to conquer shame,
or the weakness which falsely takes its name,
and none to conquer : unshocked unchilled her eyes,
encouraged and transported me still the same.

XI.

How Her spiritual desire's communion
far surpasseth the natural degree !
borne on alien strength we seem to be
across all barriers into raptured union,
in fear more brave, in thralldom more feeling free.

XII.

Vile as foolish, invalid as impure,
blotting two souls where one was black, for nought,
all confession is that hath e'er been brought
to any other than Her. Who else can cure
the soul but She by whom was the body wrought?

XIII.

So I faltered not till my pilgrimage
through the slough of confession o'er was past,
and the fervor of hidden longings cast
in nude integrity, like an open page,
on Her prompt loving-kindness so rich and vast:

XIV.

then my light spirit free took flame again,
rather following lamely after thought
with this ponderous dull expression taught
by superficial converse, than making plain
thereby the sense with which it so maddened fraught.

XV.

'Nether hells of destruction! gulf and melt
'in your merciless blood-red maws of fire,
'in your sulphurous crucibles of ire,
'all insubordinate parts which have not felt,
'and died in throes that pasture, my heaven's desire;

XVI.

'died in filling Her love of harmony,
'vast incontinency of selfless good,
'renovating and sanctifying flood;
'died as to separate narrow agency,
'and lived to her as trees of the sacred wood:

XVII.

'melt reduce them in life's ideal scale
'down vindictively down to viewless air
'or the elements which therein have share;
'until disorganization may prevail
'o'er each false growth, to obliterate or repair.

XVIII.

'For, my Light! this embrace more makes me feel
'how with retrograde vileness I am weighted:
'rendered wholly to thy contact, elated
beyond entrancement by draughts wherewith I reel
and hang on thee, quenched vigorless drained o'ermated;

XIX.

‘ notwithstanding such perfect joy, I seem
‘ all unequal to yield it in return :
‘ though with ready devotedness I burn,
‘ this disobedient flesh persists to teem
‘ with cumbrances my mental affections spurn.

XX.

‘ They indeed to the high and equal level
‘ of thy cloudless effulgent beauty climb ;
‘ with thy torridest strain they loudly rhyme ;
‘ but inefficiently ordered is their revel
‘ by this crass form, corruptible birth of time.

XXI.

‘ As yon eddies whose tinkling splash we hear
‘ through night’s shadows along the rugged bank,
‘ lately mutual bright refreshment drank
‘ of prying sunbeams, but broke, their course not clear,
‘ the fervent ray to sparkles, then helpless sank ;

XXII.

‘ interruptedly so strong worship’s tide
‘ rolls abundant through every channel bed
‘ in my nature to thee, but checked, ill-spiced,
‘ while spells like those may display a tempting side
‘ of earth’s defilement, gathers but feeble head.

XXIII.

' Courage nevertheless forsakes me not ;
' though no trust in myself I can repose,
' on thy love can I cast both toils and woes ;
' be that sufficient : there is in earth no spot
' nor in the heavens but thy balmy blessing knows.

XXIV.

' If so be that in blind impatient youth,
' when the doctrines of wisdom are contemned
' and few impulses by conviction stemmed,
' I disrespected thy majesty and truth,
' for such shortcoming here do I stand condemned.

XXV.

' Yet assuredly for those early errors
' low prostration may now at least atone ;
' humble servitude may proud words disown ;
' and while acknowledging thy potential terrors,
' he dread them not who grovels before thy throne.

XXVI.

' He not dreads them who feels that his desert,
' how distorted his actions e'er may be
' by conventional shallowness, to thee
' is high as patent : of hours like these expert,
' he waits with faith thy rise from the future's sea.

XXVII.

' But who loves for a merely selfish end,
' not considering human unity,
' is like one before whom at midnight 'lie
' wild tracts of country where hill and dale extend
' for some few miles, so seems, to a fiery sky.

XXVIII.

' Cold and famished he gladly turns his face—
' lost all trace of a road—to that red flare:
' 'tis the iron-stone furnace blazing there
' in flame perennial; each night from that place
' on winter clouds thus flickers its gloomy glare.

XXIX.

' Dismal foggy and dark the lonesome fields,
' ploughland deep, sodden stubble, rushy moor,
' stretch in weary succession on before;
' and not a fence to his struggles passage yields,
' but soaks his clothes, his bramble-torn skin makes sore.

XXX.

' Mud-stained wet and fatigued he thus pursues
' through the treacherous night his painful way,
' sometimes checked and compelled to turn or stay
' and reconnoitre; at times he almost rues
' his first resolve, wherein yet the best chance lay.

XXXI.

' This continues until a dreary rise,
' where the night-wind across its ridge blows bleak,
' opens that which he turned his steps to seek :
' the lurid sky-glare no more attracts his eyes ;
' his aim grows more defined, but his muscles weak.

XXXII.

' See! the monsters of fire in awful glow !
' more than one on the black horizon view :
' each huge cylinder from its gaping flue
' keeps fiercely vomiting cloven tongues that show
' on high by flashes, die and dart up anew.

XXXIII.

' Their vicinity will at least afford
' warmth and covering from the chill and damp,
' longed-for rest from the anxious toil and tramp,
' coarse fare in plenty ; and sleep on some dry board
' will ease his o'erstrained sinews from ache and cramp.

XXXIV.

' So encouraged he stiffly limps along
' down the slope of the last dark valley side,
' then stops short. What is here ? he has descried
' an intermediate water broad and strong
' that hurries like an estuary's ebb tide.

XXXV.

‘ Still he hopes for a bridge. Nay, here is none,
‘ not for leagues perhaps; his dismay is black
‘ as night around; he can nor go on nor back :
‘ the goal was nigh of the race thus hardly run,
‘ but sought not by a thither conducive track.

XXXVI.

‘ That broad gulf between heaven’s imagined joy
‘ and its realization into fact,
‘ is not bridged by shrewd wit and worldly tact,
‘ which heavenly things from heaven may oft decoy ;
‘ but, once come down, these earthy are by the act.

XXXVII.

‘ Flesh unprofitable, the killing letter,
‘ these fall down, their warm spirit left above :
‘ sensuality’s lees, not wine of love,
‘ are in his cup who thine upward steps doth fetter ;
‘ whose heart of lies black doom at the end shall prove.

XXXVIII.

‘ Come the end must with ‘ death ’ or dissolution
‘ from the hindrance and help of this gross flesh ;
‘ when the exteriors, first unchanged and fresh,
‘ shall fade and vanish as by a strong ablution,
‘ the bare soul struggle, fast in its own works’ mesh ;

XXXIX.

'evil works which, averse from that sky-ladder
'whereon prophets have seen thy form descend
'and return with enrichment, cannot blend
'for common uses : who owns such is the 'sadder
'for their possession, both in his day and end.

XL.

'From a furious beast one may escape,
'from the flames that reduce a house to ashes,
'e'en from down-bolting lightning's crooked flashes ;
'but can self-enemies flee their proper shape ?
'can self-attack bind up its own sores and gashes ?

XLI.

'No ; bad passions become a lake of fire,
'melting down to their mineral existence
'useless organized powers which make resistance
'to living harmonies ; thence with new desire
'the altered being may rise to a new subsistence.

XLII.

'Thy delight is the heaven to which I soar ;
'thy rebuke is the hell from which I flee :
'O deliver me, love ! and let me be
'thy servants' servant : I yield my spirit's core
'for thee to ravish, kill, so it cleave to thee,

XLIII.

' cleave like fluttering foliage to the branch
' which the hurricane sweeps with humming noise
' yet dissevers not while its youth enjoys
' the permeation of sap ; though hoar-frosts blanch
' its autumn tints, 't is sturdily kept in poise

XLIV.

' in its place till the numbing winter scowls
' and the skeleton trees stand stark and bold,
' crossing knocking their twigs exposed and cold
 with creaks and lashes in every blast that howls
' against the woodlands, chill from a naked wold.

XLV.

' Though no winter may kill the evergreen
' ever youthful exuberant intensity
' of that yearning which but augments its density
' and concentration with time, yet oft 't is seen
' that powers worn out abandon the mind's propensity.

XLVI.

Keep mine, keep me with thy strong guarding sure,
' O celestial Beauty, nature's crown !
' not for mine individual renown,
' but for thy name's sake and all men's, keep me pure
' from their contact who into the pit go down.

XLVII.

'I am thine, and thou knowest how my soul
'teems yet charged with strong words I cannot utter,
'how great impulses through my nerve-work flutter
'like netted birds : yet my will hath reached its goal
'if thine make me its battering rain-flood's gutter.'

XLVIII.

My discourse, which had wandered somewhat wide,
like the ramblings of one intoxicated,
raised no smile on Her lips, who estimated
its worth by motive and in the wordy tide
saw mystic's joy at finding his spirit mated.

XLIX.

And Her answer was each my arms to take
in the grip of a smooth athletic hand,
forcing me by confrontment to withstand
dilated scrutiny ready crouched to slake
in wells of life Her long-suppressed fierce demand,

L.

unimpeded by earthly clog and chain,
individual disabilities,
self-engendered corruption, acted lies.
Soon done : the snake sprang ; to moderate was vain ;
Hers slept I, lost in Her yet with open eyes.

LI.

Floating spread on the deep of Her possession,
stripped of hindrance to Her entire delight—
my mortality seemed to flee in fright
and stand beholding from far the foist aggression
of fountain kisses poured mid the hush of night.

CHAPTER V.

VERSE I.

Hush. Soft gloom. Stilly wood. Mild stars between.
Wisdom's purified love-submissive swoon.
Night's deep glamorous pulse-unstirring noon ;
whose eastern border now wears a sickly sheen,
that far-forecoming harbinger of the moon.

II.

There some dun-colored clouds in clusters float
like huge monsters or birds in mid-air sleeping,
whose thin underparts yellow beams are steeping
with slow advances : earth seems to take no note
of that wan power so stealthily upward peeping.

III.

Not a rustle through all the sombre lace,
black embroidery of the piny boughs,
which definement of shadows more endows
with grim gaunt stateliness, twilight yielding place
to glimmers which fantastic strange contrasts rouse.

IV.

Not a quiver among the briars or fern ;
gnat and grasshopper, beetle, all are still ;
nought is moving in vale, on dewy hill :
a silence audible, dead, portentous, stern,
relieved but by the eddy-wave's curl and spill.

V.

Dim, transparently snowy dim about
our wreathed forms loosely flowed CALLISTE's vesture,
most conspicuous in that dark sequesture ;
so close, the natural mind at first might doubt
to which soul most belonged the intense congesture.

VI.

Now the spirit's discerning eye beheld
Her celestial beauty brightening more
form and feature, while from that soundless shore
of clouds horizontal amber tides dispelled
great rocks of gloom that frowned, then were painted o'er,

VII.

and their hitherward sides alone retained
leaden sullenness rent with lucid streaks
evanescent ; they put forth slender peaks
and smoke-like volumes ; but none of these remained,
the watchful pallor shot through their gaps and creeks,

VIII.

faint but gaining in whiteness. Now a speck
glowed like peat-burning on a distant height ;
broadened rapidly on the skirt of night
from mid-black foliage, still too low to deck
the mirror leaves with sparkles and points of light :

IX.

nor indeed had strong beams yet issued forth
from the widening orb's segment on the wood ;
up it heaved as from out a red-hot flood
of molten metal ; the round moon looked on earth,
her lurid visage tinged with a golden blood.

X.

Soon she entered a long grey bar of cloud
stationed obvious to her tardy rise ;
thence emerging, askance turned hollow eyes
and dark-marked countenance frigid, calmly proud,
more luminous and visibly less in size.

XI.

And more amply a primrose-tinted sheet
paled the violet field of silver stars,
growing westward, not as a glare which mars
its back-relief, but a mixture soft and meet
for scenes where no effect with another wars.

XII.

Part, more vivid, began ere long to, steep
swarthy carpets, far slopes of crowded trees,
dotted sparingly where by slow degrees
each taller top made its shortening shadow creep,
here solitary, there grouped in twos and threes.

XIII.

Walls of aspens like moveless pillared smoke,
thinly fringing against the faint-starred night ;
poplars dark-leaved and sharp in ragged height,
the stealthy moon-flood's unfelt incursion broke,
that weirdly thus and silently urged its right.

XIV.

In those shadowy woods, I knew, the orb
sparkled yellow through every petty spray,
where thick foliage screens cross-pendent lay,
in glimmer-fragments which aisles obscure absorb
and grotted glooms seem sternly to frown away.

XV.

In broad meadows behind where dews of June
saturated the tall-grown crop of grass,
grated crakes like quick saws on edge of brass ;
a fox barked hoarsely, and grey-winged in the moon
a pair of cuckoos perched just to mock and pass.

XVI.

Interspersed with trim copses summer-hooded,
ridgy pastures of shorter grass lie round,
gently sloping to airy higher ground ;
with cattle peopled, by tree-lined hedges wooded ;
whence time to time gruff sleep-muffled lowings sound.

XVII.

There the placid-faced heavy-resting Cow,
white, dun, mottled, red-brown, roan, black, or pied,
blows a loud sigh, down settled on her side,
and ruminates with still pauses : licking now,
her backward horns with graceful slow toss are plied.

XVIII.

From their breeding-haunts near in copse and dell
soon the nightingales' luscious trills began,
full, metallic, or shrill, with varied plan ;
their liquid symphony round each bosky fell
and woodland knoll in pauseless rotation ran.

XIX.

Imitative those silver flutings filled
half the summer night with a roundelay
heard above the fed stream's white tumbling play,
whose rising volume now jetted danced and spilled
in scanty flashes lit by the peering ray.

XX.

Many patterns grotesque the slow beam drew
on the underwood roots and russet moss ;
darting inward a birch-stem to emboss
with startling shine-spots amid a pitchy crew
of firs forbidding, by an old moat or fosse,

XXI.

where majestic old fragments of stone piles
stood attracting more notice than by day :
on their fronts did the moonlight seem to stay
with ancient sympathy : down unknown defiles
and glens beyond it found an uncertain way.

XXII.

Penetrating at last the bowery gloom,
some few quivering spears their glance reflected
on a stem here and there, and so detected
the cloister avenue's length. A tuft of broom
in naked gild the open without aspected.

XXIII.

Soft and windless reposed the gelid air,
passive vehicle of minutest sound
whether whispered along the herby ground
or borne from hill-top to hill-top. And the stare
climbed higher and made stronger effects around.

XXIV.

Hark ! how sudden and near that shrill wild whoop !
List ! an answer from far across the valley !
'T is the owl, who his brethren calls to rally
from their diurnal recess where perched they droop :
the hour has come to hunt for their prey and dally.

XXV.

Weird this shimmering wilderness ; herein
common objects impose uncanny scene,
common noises sound ghostly : and the sheen,
the shades fantastic, the cataract or lyn*
brawling or tinkling, all to the like convene.

XXVI.

Fair, O daughter of heaven ! is thy cold gaze,
o'er broad woodlands, hills, towns and waters shining ;
rude realities, shapes uncouth, refining
to ornamental effects : the motley maze
of landscape clears unraveled by thy divining.

* *Lyn*, a rocky hill-stream.

XXVII.

Elms majestic and lofty stud the park
or the uplands of pasture sward with dots
black and small in the distance ; caves and grotts,
aisles, columned labyrinths, leaf-domes grand and dark,
are seen in light and shade of surrounding spots.

XXVIII.

Gardens pallidly bloom ; the flaunting show
scarlet, orange and liquid blue displayed,
by the color-creating sun arrayed,
have died or faded, and perfumed airs but blow
from tinted plots on lawn-banks and mounds out-laid ;

XXIX.

where perhaps with monotony a fountain
splashes throwing its moony jets on high,
viewed from one side against the untelling sky,
from others backed by the mansion or a mountain,
in which relief its spray-clouds translucent fly.

XXX.

Rivers silverly gleam at intervals
where within the light's line their bendings come ;
some o'er far-reaching marshy flats, and some
recluse by shadowy wood-robed glens and dales,
until they near the swells of their briny home :

XXXI.

then majestic they roll broad currents strong,
making whirlpools through every arch of stone
where high bridges by rows of lamps alone
in wide succession are visible along
the city quays, which night-fogs have settled on.

XXXII.

Known from far is the port by crowded masts
with their branches of spars and looming hulls
under tracery which the distance dulls,
a web of cordage that not an image casts
on billows which the sea-breeze decreasing lulls.

XXXIII.

Further out, on the vast unvaried main,
flaps the sail of a tacking fisher's boat :
others show like dark specks, still more remote :
one close in shore hauls her rusty anchor-chain ;
the ear with that rough rubbing is hardly smote.

XXXIV.

All the pebble-banked weedy length of beach
murmurs quietly with the plashing surge :
every wave doth its curled forerunner urge,
a brilliant foam-line whose quick-unfolding reach
rolls hissing up the strand while new crests emerge.

XXXV.

Right away from this briny-breathing coast
o'er the leaden-hued solitary sea
lies a broad bed of sheen that late will be
a joyous dancing-place for the gilded host
of crowding ripples, far as the eye can see.

XXXVI.

Sounds, on water and land awoke, report
in distinctness precise, far off and near;
throbbless intervals make them strike so clear
and echo longer. Though some not well assort
with moonlight hours all dreamy as these appear.

XXXVII.

Here a jetty runs from the headland out,
whose black rafters the wash is heard among,
low and regular : bursts of tuneless song
rise miscellaneous with the cheery shout
and louder oath from sailors who homeward throng.

XXXVIII.

By the side of a cable-covered wharf
barges deep-laden lie ; a heavy thump
comes repeatedly, as each sack or lump
is heaved upon them : the paleness acts to dwarf
those busy figures—makes each a limbless stump.

XXXIX.

On the hill-side above that broad canal,
slowly heavily round with lazy sweep,
seeming in the fresh upper air to sleep,
a windmill massive and unsymmetrical
its long dim arms swings creaking as up they creep.

XL.

Tall and spectral with red revolving eye
stands a tapering lighthouse on the down,
watching, seaward, that lustrous Broadway drown
the beam in tissue of glory; inland, vie
for white relief the steeples of some large town.

XLI.

Steeple, porticoes, streets, therein receive
in their measure the universal bath,
smallest obstacles in whose searching path
confound their shapes : under chimney, wall, roof, eave,
blind darkness its conglomerant lodging hath.

XLII.

Now the soft-footed house-top rovers play,
caterwauling with mew and spit and howl ;
round the chimney-stacks up steep tiles they prow ;
haunts grimy damp with a night-shower passed away,
and cold with wind that wags a rust-groaning cowl.

XLIII.

Here, the spiry cathedral's minarets
lose their sharpness in solitary height ;
there, close backyards and mews imbibe the light
by smoke and gas-burners spoilt : the moon's eye sets
an equal gaze on fair and foul things of night.

XLIV.

Desert-still are the squares, whose half-dried shrubs
alter little their stone-faced houses' dulness :
though of moonlight these most receive the fulness,
't is ineffectual there as when one rubs
a phosphorescent surface. But yet the coolness

XLV.

contrasts pleasantly with the dusty day,
with tumultuous crowds the lonesome quiet ;
e'en the market-place long hath ceased its riot ;
night's dignity now reclaims an urban sway,
and no remarked disturbances more belie it,

XLVI.

save the rumble of some enormous wagon
whose slow journey all hours makes opportune ;
save the tavern where idlers yet commune
in coarse fraternity round the glass and flagon,
from which roars laughter, fiddles a jigging tune ;

XLVII.

save where street-gathered knots beneath a hall
whose lit windows above are part thrown wide
hear the music to which bright beauties glide
in flying gracefulness through the gaudy ball ;
their early-coming carriages wait outside—

XLVIII.

early-coming—against the haggard moon
now contends from the east a belt of red ;
lilac-fresh is the morning planet's bed :
the last waltz melody through the lamped saloon
is by the half-past-four-chiming town-clocks led.

XLIX.

All night long too recur the shriek and whistle,
plainly heard above every other sound,
from the terminus where cross-rails abound :
between high walls whereon spiked defences bristle
they intersect the hardened and level ground,

L.

sidings pivots and branches ; hence the danger
screamed from one to another and the clang
where rolled trucks and compartments meet and bang
full saucer eyelets of crimson warn the stranger
arriving train, and green ones averted hang.

LI.

Out again : let not contemplation dwell
on the turmoil and din of smoky streets :
more refreshingly peaceful landscape greets
the mind that flags from excitement, and the spell
of night works best in out-of-the-way retreats.

LII.

Let us rather frequent a moorland wild
and observe the moon's ruddy rise thereon
from a bed of green bushes, and anon
the redness turned into golden beamings mild,
and these again in whiter effulgence gone.

LIII.

Let us listen to foam-veiled waterfall,
reed-met wind from the main, and sea-gulls' cry
as from wet shining sands they inland fly ;
hear fowls at roost in a distant farm-yard call
with fluttered cluck at tread of the passer-by,

LIV.

joining with an old watch-dog whose half-slumber
breaks at noises upon the arid road :
as the stranger comes near his fixed abode,
forgetting collar and chain his strength encumber,
he darts to their full tether in savage mood,

LV.

and there checked with a jerk, falls growling back,
then turns round the moon with outstretched nose ;
and for long lonely hours, while men repose,
his far-heard querulous bay assaults her track
through clear and cloud till blank at its beamless close.

LVI.

Leave behind us the surf-roar on the beach :
to the glassy-toned gurgle in the brook,
to the leaf-turning whisper through the nook
of freckled alders, where moonlight's chequered bleach
upon the fast-locked sleepers has come to look,

LVII.

turn we back, to the sacred temple whence
thus discursive imagination strayed,
by exterior sights so long delayed ;
howbeit for no indeterminate pretence
in medley scenes contemplative hath it stayed.

LVIII.

If itinerant through the moon-pale lands
with my guardian Virgin blest I go,
how conditioned see'er, the course, though slow,
is much-revealing to one who understands
that they see not who see but the outer show.

LIX.

Changed, meanwhile, is the pattern of the grove
by the invisible mounting of night's lamp ;
somewhat chiller the air ; a dewy damp
is wafted inward from where those low mists move
along the vale and grey on its sides encamp.

LX.

With their mantle the moistened earth is spread,
with thin striated films night's latest sky :
not unfrequent, across the moon's face fly
swift ragged vapors through which her light is shed
for some few moments weaker observably.

LXI.

These increase in succession till clear space
fast alternates with transient obscurity,
till the zenith foregoes its purple purity ;
and as she winces amid the cloudy chase,
the orb puts off ungenial freezing durity.

LXII.

Round her gleam-changing countenance is seen,
many-tinted and dim, a halo-glory
mid the volatile masses silver-hoary,
like her immovable. So the external screen
flies by and leaves the principle of this Story.

LXIII.

In her majesty the dark-hooded moon
not less beautiful through the cloud-rack breaks
than she floods o'er the black-blue clear and makes
earth's shadow-paintings : from either night's deep noon
its influences characteristic takes.

LXIV.

Yet the cloud-traversed scene below lies sad :
distant objects as heavy masses loom ;
soft tints vanish and mix in livid gloom ;
the drowsy lands in one sullen hue are clad,
as if a day-break ashy and raw were come.

LXV.

And e'en now as the dingy fleeces thickened,
sailing faster and darker overhead,
russet shadowings hushed the woods instead
of that effulgence whose ether-reign had quickened
and shaped all things whereon its mild power was shed ;

LXVI.

not despoiling the pine-wood of effects,
but enshrouding it in sepulchral awe
growing heavier, when, awake, I saw
that dreary steel-grey horizon which reflects
no moonlight nor will gleam from the day-spring draw—

LXVII.

none as yet ; but its chill dull growth was rapid :
though the light which was shed was moonshed still,
and the glimmering on the eastern hill [vapid,
showed through the glade-gap, low-hung unsure and
yet soon the dappled dawn-tide must work its will.

LXVIII.

No more hooting of owls : one straggler dropped
from a scarcely shook bough on noiseless wings ;
and across the unmoving crowd of things
wherefrom night loosened, their tardy flap not stopped
till sheltered in a distant wood's coverings.

LXIX.

Soon some little birds chirped, and Chanticleer
stretched his throat in a farm some miles away :
brisk and early, he called for the lagging day,
whose line of quick-flushing pink began appear
from underneath those hills with their turban grey.

CHAPTER VI.

VERSE I.

Then CALLISTE arose without unfolding
from that total contact my passive soul,
passive rendered like air to her control,
and in surrender the depths divine beholding
of heaven's pure peace, which orders the moving Whole.

II.

But Her wisdom foreknew that this high state,
worth each moment long years of common life,
must give place again to the former strife :
the while mortality should be copulate
with my increase, its frailties must still be rife ;

III.

only—strengthened renewed and sanctified
by fruition of their supreme desire,
all my faculties would afresh aspire
to further victory, steadfast to o'er-ride
and crush Her foes flat out in their proper mire.

IV.

Therefore now to prepare me for the parting
which ulterior laws of good decreed,
like white gossamer wrapping round a reed
just after hay-time when swallows skim low-darting
at thunder-clouded noon through the close-shorn mead,

V.

Her enveloping majesty of love,
while I knelt orientated as before,
with supporting embrace inclined me o'er,
complete prostration forbidding me to move ;
and once again Her voice did its music pour.

VI.

'Hush ! I know what thy ready lips would say,
'charged to fulminate pure devotion forth ;
'but it needeth not ; I possess thine earth,
'and all thine innermost secrets are my prey ;
'I have not spared thee, proving my subject's worth.

VII.

'Fear not now, though I quit thee for a time,
 'lest forsaken of me thy strength should waste :
 'of mine infinite love a higher taste
 'shall shake the earth from that mountain-top sublime
 'to which shall thy strong footsteps hereafter haste ;

VIII.

'as a symbol at once and pledge of which
 'I will leave thee meanwhile this chalice here :
 'drink it frequently but with watchful fear
 'lest aught corrupt find a place within the niche
 'where thou dost shrine it ; then shall I still be near.

IX.

Call it Brook-by-the-Way ;* my daughters' eyes
 'all contain it, the youngest virgins most ;
 'ask and they shall refresh thee with the Host
 'that opens red gates of heaven. My son, be wise,
 'though all beside thee scoff at the Holy Ghost.

X.

'Darkly dreamily through the moon-marked forest
 'then though wander thy night-chilled stony stream,
 'lightened shall be the darkness, and the dream
 'more prove reality than the things thou storest
 'as solid good, mistaken for what they seem.

* *Brook-by-the-Way.* : מנחל בדרך ישתה על כן ירים ראש :
 'He shall drink of the Brook by the Way ; therefore shall he
 lift up the head.'—Ps. cx. 7.

XI.

Let thy watchword be constancy : temptation
not thereat will its galling instance stay ;
but be constant in act to simply obey
my will revealed without waiting explanation :
the just by faith attaineth to perfect day.

XII.

‘ Not alone shalt thou go, remember this ;
‘ they of old shall be guides upon thy way
‘ by the moonlight of faith ere dawn display
‘ its greater wonders. I seal with parting kiss
‘ thy lips and heart, my chosen ; thou canst not stray.’

XIII.

Then while glimmered the ashy dawn distinctly,
and the earthward moon kept hard dregs of light
in a side-leaning face that followed night ;
CALLISTE braced her keen powers yet more succinctly
and fixed Her eyes with all their entrancing might

.XIV.

deep on mine till my selfhood ceased to gird
with one film of reserve its inmost core:
when Her pressed lips through my whelmed spirit bore
a blast of pleasure from out the awful Third,*
wherewith conception fainted and knew no more.

* i. e. *Third Heaven*.—See Book IV.

BOOK II

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

CHAPTER I.

VERSE I.

Thus the Sun had arisen on the Earth
ere from ecstasy's sleep my soul arose :
deep oblivious had been that repose,
while, far advanced from a cloud-attended birth,
the blue and silver day did its plan disclose.

II.

Slowly languidly as to much-tried nerve,
lithely actively as to freshened heart
and invigorate brain, I stood alert,
determined neither to right nor left to swerve
till every power should faithfully play its part

III.

in fulfilling CALLISTE'S clear command :
how so perilous e'er the task might prove,
must it straightway be done—so interwove
all sweet warm blandishment tasted at Her hand
with gentle firm instruction my Ruling Love.

IV.

Dark green solitudes of that sunless wood
now excluded the hot sky's brazen glare
once again ; but I would not tarry there :
on dispensations o'erpast to turn and brood
the strength of new-born wisdom may oft impair.

V.

SHE was gone like a vision of the night,
like the phantom of some delicious dream,
like a gust-startled image from the stream ;
but though departed from earthly touch and sight,
with Her influx my innermost form did teem.

VI.

In Her grace I could go from shore to shore,
though inhospitable their lands might be,
though forbidding wide wastes of angry sea :
no hardships possible should subdue me more,
Her watchful love renewing me frequently.

VII.

Therefore reverently the sapphire chalice
taking in my right hand, I left the place
where had shone the mild glory of Her face ;
content by drinking thereof to scorn the malice
of foes unseen who might with my course keep pace.

VIII.

Noon returned saw the sacred grove afar
left behind and my steps o'er distant hills
toiling tardily, halting by loud rills
and shady coverts, till faint the beam-haired star
hung o'er day's portals' amber-opallic sills.

IX.

Then, on passing a high down's airy brow,
opened suddenly such a gorgeous scene
as had theretofore not imagined been
by most adventurous fancy; and e'en now
its wonders more resembled things thought than seen.

X.

At the foot of a thickly-wooded slope
dark-blue deep-bosomed a majestic lake
lay with hills on three sides. Their turbid wake
attended canvas-winged boats, a trailing rope
of agitated eddy and foam and flake.

XI.

Breezy-crested white-flashing breakers died
all abroad that inviting cool expanse :
on their tips seemed the red beam yet to dance
and dream quiescently on the further side ;
so strong reflexions warm southern hues enhance.

XII.

Distant lowlands bedecked with forest groves,
long black patches that tawny flats part-hide,
showed large villages scattered near and wide,
mere groups of masonry to the sight which roves
far from among them. And ere the shadows glide

XIII.

upward rapidly from the glooming blue,
each small block looks bright yellow, then turns livid ;
every color in turn becomes more vivid
in that most exquisite landscape. Evening drew
its robe thus on with all the sun's ray-gems heaved.

XIV.

More stupendously grand the sharp horizon
than the foreground was softly beautiful :
granite peaks rose abruptly through a cool
and dewy haze ; streaks of snow their cliffs bedizon ;
there resting smiles the sunken sun's rosy rule.

XV.

Skirted lightly they were by vapor volumes
which in places their rugged girths had wreathed :
those brown peaks in dense snow-clouds oft are sheathed ;
but sharp and near now stood out their shapeless columns
above the mist festoon by day's heat bequeathed.

XVI.

Part of this to the upper realms of air
from the color-bathed west had slowly sailed,
where like spreading flamingo-wings it veiled
with bright vermilion small spans of heaven, whose share
of azure beauty earth's deeper painting paled.

XVII.

But beyond and above the most sublime
of those solemn old giants of the sky—
white, vast, spectral, a very part of high
and distant ether where tempests hardly climb,
an isolated cloud seemed to changeless lie.

XVIII.

Yet it was not a cloud, though distant seers
might their wisdom to such mistake afford :
mass on creamy smooth mass, fired, burnished, ored
with parting sunlight's last gush, its head thus rears
the awful summit man had not yet explored.

XIX.

Three days eastward I journeyed, this the first ;
rested mostly while blazed the sun aloft ;
but when crimson-lipped evening's touch was soft
on jagged outlines of rock, and spreading burst
the glory-flood on snows with their cloud-caps doffed,

XX.

and the moon from behind them hurried back,
moving mild-faced along the sheeny south,
making precipice figures more uncouth
and dangers vaguer, yet showing me a track
which narrowed upwards from a swift river's mouth ;

XXI.

then with firm though more cautious step renewed
on unswerving I held my varied way :
at the crag-topping orient of day
the snow and ice world on high was dimly hued
with mist-pale purple, gilded where sunbeams lay.

XXII.

Vine and chestnut groves clothing creek and bay,
like perennial spring, beset my path :
not a beauty which northern April hath,
but found its similar in the blaze of day
that here deployed its midsummer torrid scath.

XXIII.

While, above, those sky-piercing peaks of snow,
throned perpetual winter, grandly rest
on their rugged rock towers' remotest crest ;
the green young gardens of earth breathe warm below,
a wondrous land of opposite climes possess.

XXIV.

Here the thin and elastic atmosphere
melts far outlines and makes the welkin blue,
set with cloudlets of every rainbow hue
as changes daylight : the ever-teeming year
displays its glories all at a single view.

XXV.

So the scenery of that paradise
sought beyond seemed to cast its colored shade
like a promise from Her whose love had laid
the word upon me. May Her unsleeping eyes
prevent my daily course till the Debt be paid !

XXVI.

For with them departs all concreative power,
all interpreting of its outward signs
by the soul; nor prophetic light divines
the universal transcript in that sad hour
when Her almighty sun in the least declines.

XXVII.

Southland's hills in the earth-sun may rejoice
bathed in fragrance of warmth and hues of light,
every scene with new luscious splendor bright:
but if the sun in the soul, Her still small voice,
be absent, how can colors and glow delight?

XXVIII.

Moonlit azure may tint the hazy crags
here that loom round a border-rippling lake,
white and silver and blue night's realm partake;
but when the moonlight that guideth conscience flags,
what outer heaven a substitute power can make?

XXIX.

Yes, the pilgrim by faith has weight to bear,
weight that hinders his course its free assay,
weight that sickens his heart with long delay;
but if he fail not the lamp shall soon appear
which shineth more and more to the perfect day.

XXX.

Thus reflecting I reached a lovely plain,
one vast carpet of woodland flat for leagues,
whose fresh greenery ne'er the eye fatigues,
but where in sight of the snowy mountain chain
sun-basking spring with summer's dry months intrigues.

XXXI.

One who only hath northern summers seen,
sombre steadfast and same, umbrageous weight
lying grim on the landscape, delicate
but here and there, cannot frame such thought of green
as here a fresh reality comes to mate.

XXXII.

Many-tinted rich thick grape clusters tangle
mid the trellis-work, shading every way
through the labyrinth fruit-groves. An array
tall dense with long tongues of leaf in graceful dangle,
the bulbous maize is underwood crop and haye.

XXXIII.

Shrubs innumerable have also leaves
broad to cover the face and brilliant each
with a verdure the south alone can reach :
the dark opaqueness of some just well relieves
the masses which transparency seems to bleach.

XXXIV.

Brilliant green, topped with yellow, dashed with red,
heath and hillock o'erspread the bosky plain,
where on spring shoots warm gold-blue air hath lain
throughout the summer and wealth of color shed
abroad that inexhaustibly rich domain.

XXXV.

Balls of ruddy gold fire, ripe oranges
hang in sunset amid their dark green boughs ;
or their odorous milk-white blossoms ooze
with heavy sweetness ; lime-citron loads oppress
vast orchard groves where all fruits in open house.

XXXVI.

Corn, vine, mulberry, fig, plum, olive pale,
stand together upon the self-same soil,
thick abundance of bread, wine, fruit and oil ;
where peasant women of swarthy beauty hale
and raven hair, bareheaded at noon-blaze toil.

XXXVII.

There a proud city bathes its marble dome
grand and glorious in the dazzling sun :
when the genial hours of heat are done,
and sudden dusk draws apace its glassy gloam
on ether's deep, and white the moon's course begun

XXXVIII.

tops the narrow street houses, silvering
fountain jets, making faint the gaudy lamps
hung in gardens and palaces, while camps
all round the fragrant campagne a foggy ring
part caused by dews and part by the river damps ;

XXXIX.

then the minarets spires and turrets point
like great icicles into blue-crowned night
far aloft in a silent throng and bright :
if only one place love's spirit could anoint
for prayer, the choice would surely on this alight.

XL.

And indeed from cool dawn to orange eve
down the forest-like vastness of the aisles
candles burn at the altars, and at whiles
thin sounds of chanting some ornate side-shrine leave,
to lose themselves in height of o'er-arching piles.

XLI.

Further on, I beheld the Land of Tombs—
so to call it—for there in part are buried
mighty monuments of the strong who gloried
in all this world gives ; but now in catacombs,
gates, columns, fanes, remains all their greatness storied.

XLII.

O'er the ranges of amphitheatres
crumbling down, fountain-gardens' broken stone,
lizards dart and weeds grow ; in spring full-blown
are crimson banks of wild flowers ; and though life stirs
and hums around, the watcher here feels alone.

XLIII.

From a weedy marsh near loud frogs alert
pour their ancient shrill rattle on the night
strewn with azure-set stars intensely white ;
and small horned owls with the dirgeful sound concert
their wailing whistle, changeless by ages' flight.

XLIV.

Drums may beat in the town, bells ring, horns blow,
wheels go rumbling, with children's shrieks or cheers ;
deaf to these things become the watcher's ears :
the sad old columns, upright or shattered low—
to them and him frogs croak of the far dead years.

XLV.

In and out of dismantled hall and bower,
mid the murmur of cavern-cooling founts,
on the noon-glowing terrace tops and mounts,
came high-born maidens, their fire-souled glory-flower
whose race with might no longer the world confronts.

XLVI.

MENE MENE TEKÈL UPHARSIN. Man !
trust not hope not for aught enduring here :
seest thou not how each green-commencing year
soon turns to withering autumn, how the ban
of disappointment life's every bud doth shear ?

XLVII.

Forward, then, o'er these ruins of the past,
where the tide of new life now thoughtless runs :
what to us is the set of world-seen suns
if our day prosper ? eat, drink ! since none can last,
discreet is he who gloomy reflexion shuns.

XLVIII.

But the ruins say, Hearken ! not so, men,
may ye trifle with ages' weal and woe :
in their turn must your bodies, true, lie low ;
but have ye not your appointed mission, then ?
and will ye not accomplish it ere ye go ?

XLIX.

Not for idle contentment are ye placed
in this valley of misery and tears,
but to conquer and better it : careers
of human-hearted endeavor are not waste ;
they carry on and wed you to brighter years.

L.

We have stood here and witnessed life and love,
pain and death, every virtue every crime,
all the glories and all the glooms of Time ;
and this our message is, that to One above
your souls must thus through many distresses climb.

LI.

Come and see where the sea-nymph spirits have
sapphire light-flashing green or crystal dwelling
in this earth-world, where through a small gap welling
deep waves cerulean rocky caverns lave ;
not when by squalls, with suction and boom rebelling,

LII.

rolls the cliff-beating billow, but when stilled
in the summer calm glass-clear shaded surges
lick with low hollow gulp the dark-mouthed verges
of perpendicular cliff-walls ; screaming build
white sea-fowl high above where the boat emerges.

LIII.

Now once more comes a winding gulf of lake
like a jewel mid velvet-herbaged hills :
some, precipitous, throw a shade that chills
the amphitheatre pleasantly ; these make
a sombre show when sunset the distance fills.

LIV.

Far off coasts of the lake, in pale blue haze
soft at morn, show a deep brown purple glow
hard and ligneous where the land lies low
with sharp decision of outline, though the maze
of fruit and frondage o'er them doth thickly grow.

LV.

Dotted midway across the breadth of waters,
islets richly embellished here are placed,
built with terraces and with grottoes faced [daughters
of gelid gloom. Ah! its sweet-tongued dark-eyed
in this bright realm may see their own splendor traced.

LVI.

Garden gravel-walks flame with gorgeous dyes
where the orange and citron load the breeze,
hemmed with sunniest green: façade and frieze,
tall statue obelisks in profusion rise,
a grove of stonework. Here every sense may seize

LVII.

perfect measure of joy: the sight may wander
o'er blue mountain slopes ridge on ridge receding
soft and softer afar, or watch the speeding
shoals of lake-fish transparent fathoms under,
or rest on flowers strong scents with the sun-glow breed-
[ing.

LVIII.

Ebon labyrinth aisles of foliage
lead to freshness of showering fountain jets
with their spray-flitting rainbow: brilliant sets
thereon the tree-painting sun, each rapid stage
of whose descent new tints on the grove inlets.

LIX.

Marble statues of every thought divine
stand at intervals in the sombre green
or on parapets grey, or only seen
within the palace, are there in worthy shrine,
or beckon poised on stone balustrade or screen.

LX.

Warm the air comes at iris-sheeny eve,
brushing valley and height the noon-fire baked:
fine and volatile dust from roads is raked
by jingling vehicles; then short showers relieve
the sultriness; earth's feverish drought is slaked.

LXI.

Lamplit pleasure-grounds aromatic bring
merry dance-music of the tabret wire:
same and simple the tunes that but aspire
to please the ear; while the bowery vinelands ring
with shrillness of the chirping cicada choir.

LXII.

O'er broad orchards of corn and in deep lanes
sparkling thousands of fire-flies sport at dusk :
mid the odors of citron rose and musk
they flash in starry dance ; sudden winds or rains
disperse them to their green homes in stalk or husk.

LXIII.

Late the gibbous-faced moon in waning rise
bars with gold the lake's sky-resembling breast :
boats or gondolas just disturb its rest
with plashing traverse : rude choral melodies
break forth from one, which others take up with zest.

LXIV.

'Tis a festival : points on distant cliffs
show their beacon-lights, and like meteors shoot
bursting rockets ; gay peasant children hoot
along the shore ; boatmen launch or land their skiffs :
below is life ; above, the stern ice-crag's mute.

LXV.

Here warm airs, silver orbs the clear sky spangling,
trees, flowers, lamps, music, signs of revelry :
there, the solitudes of a frozen sea
on granite tabled, cold blasts and ceaseless wrangling
of spouts that down their dizzy heights dash and flee.

LXVI.

Here, life dreams like the dulcet melodies
piping, jangling through these sweet-scented groves ;
there, exists only where the climber roves
with crag-born chamois or hawk that preying flies,
exists chilled, fearful, parted from joys and loves.

LXVII.

Here, day laps us in warmth and night in peace ;
fragrant kisses of colored fulgent heaven
swell the soul with their permeating leaven :
there, noonday scorches when snow-dust clouds once cease,
though breath of ice most biting those clouds have riven.

LXVIII.

All things temporal pass, save from the mind,
where their residue scenes, though dimly, dwell
hid away in a deep undrying well
for future draught ; but we should not look behind
except to rectify where we slipped and fell.

LXIX.

Still not easily may one cease to linger
mid the gardens which pleasure's vinous fount
irrigates, when the road to heaven's high Mount
so plainly pointed by duty's rigid finger
lies through. 'T were pleasant lengthily to recount

LXX.

how at yellowing milder fall of day
oft I toiled up some heathy ridge of tors
rough with granite-blocks, prickly with short furze,
to watch the burnishing light's much-changeful play,
that all things as with gaudy-hued slaughter slurs,

LXXI.

pyramid peak-crowds flush with ruddy band,
turn the sapphire-blue lakes to indigo,
lengthen lilac-tinged shades green hills below,
and travel scarlet across the laughing lands
to rest in far off clouds that like embers glow:

LXXII.

'long a gilded and milky wreath they hung
o'er the edge of the southward-stretching plain,
rising after a thick discharge of rain
at sultry noon. But the vesper-bell is rung;
the landscape fades: to rest, and then on again.

LXXIII.

On again; for the last low green-robed hill—
low compared with the skyey peaks of snow,
though four thousand feet lies the lake below
its grassy summit—stood much above me still,
and must be passed the scene of my work to show.

LXXIV.

That surmounted, the grand snow-range behind
rose magnificently in open view,
and the ice-breeze with grateful coldness blew
upon my forehead; the freshness of that wind
dispels fatigue and braces the frame anew.

LXXV.

See the ridgy crag-ocean monarch's form!
gaps in heavy-hung clouds reveal its brow
swathed in glacier deserts, whitening through
a circumambient drapery of storm:
hard frown black tops from precipice beds of snow.

LXXVI.

Billows serrated in their moveless wash,
iron-like as with each empurpled glen
solid, yet whose extent no seer may ken;
a broad abyss whence the vanished day-beams flash
their bleeding rainbowsheet—such the realm which then

LXXVII.

offered contrast to that bright blue-aired garden
mingling down in the south its bath of sky,
greeting languidly the regretful eye
with farewell lovelight. Its giant shield and warden
this high range checks the north-gale's gorge-whistling
[cry.

LXXVIII.

Yet, O Northland! for love rich, solid, sweet,
from the brilliant south must we turn to thee;
to the world-leading race the islands free
for beauty's strength; but the sweetest of the sweet
go seek, love's spirit, eastward beyond the sea.

LXXIX.

Drop down, skies! from above, and let green earth
sude to meet you soft reek of vernal dew:
warm aromas of fragrance thick imbue
the blithe air echoing harmless girlish mirth
from hearts deep, simple; minds clever, pure and true.

LXXX.

Hail, thrice-blessed Simplicity ! the tender
pink and perfume of breathing blooms art thou :
in thine aura and halo bathed, I bow
before a maidenhood not this world's, and render
unspeakingly what words express feebly now.

LXXXI.

Step by lingering step I then advanced ;
piece by piece the far plains of joy receded :
many efforts of faithful will it needed
to shut them out, ere the last time back I glanced,
and straight on duty's rugged path upward speeded.

LXXXII.

Changed the scenery, changed the atmosphere :
now I entered the wilderness of rock,
passes forced by the miner's blasting shock ;
cliffs perpendicular, wet-black, savage here,
confronting walls, the afternoon rays out-block.

LXXXIII.

No more ivory clouds and cobalt air
melting into the hill-grove's velvet robe ;
no more lusciously stained heaven's semiglobe
at sunset blushes. Deep dark as grim despair—
few cheering gleams this waterfall prison probe.

LXXXIV.

Boiling thunders the ice-stream's huge cascade,
out of sight in its awful chasm beneath,
out of sight but when some chance jet or wreath
of rock-dashed foam from the horrid gulf-gloom sprayed
reveals a caldron where the loud waters seethe.

LXXXV.

Capped and tufted with clumps of forest pines
small as herbs in the height, vast fell and slab,
almost wearisome in their greyish drab,
are unrelieved ; and the sullen breeze e'en whines
that rolls the mists which splinter-peaks tear and stab.

LXXXVI.

Grand rock-faces of sheer three thousand feet
base the snow-line, whence several thousand more
tower the desolate freckled giants hoar,
o'er-peering gaps in the pine-fringe ; and they meet,
those skyey walls, here dark by the cavern's roar.

LXXXVII.

Night again supervenes; the highest ledge
dimly answers the mountain-greeting moon :
down the shadow-line sharpening crawls, and soon
a high-range glacier shows its shining edge
far-topping all. Yet travel a little on,

LXXXVIII.

till at daybreak the vale of shadows past—
mid its polar ice-amphitheatre,
rock-bound glacier propping glacier,
the Holy Mountain stands clear and close at last,
its wild white head than highest clouds loftier !

CHAPTER II.

VERSE I.

Now the work was before me, now the goal
predetermined by my CALLISTE'S word
in that forest where first Her voice I heard,
that I should climb to the SUMMIT OF THE SOUL,
was visible, a task to be not deferred.

II.

At my feet led a rough and stony track
o'er hill pastures with rude cots sparsely studded,
then by zig-zags up sloping cliff-sides wooded
with larch and fir, where the stifling noon-heats lack
a breath of air: with thick-growing trees is hooded

III.

all the broken ascent: the wortle plant
tough to grasp here affords the climber aid,
shortening many a turn where steps are made
by dried-up channels. In mind though vigilant,
my wearied limbs among them ere long I laid.

IV.

When I started again, the oppressive hours
were no more and a yellow milder light
crossed the pastures below: some wall-faced height
re-echoed notes of a horn: small mountain flowers
looked fresh around: far snow-caps were pink and bright.

V.

As the last parting beam detached its blush
from the point of its last-held pyramid,
leaving brownness and livid white instead
on all the crag-sea against the airy flush,
I reached the rocks, of pine-covert gladly rid.

VI.

Full, round, rapidly rose the shield-large moon,
come once more to replace the dying day,
whose last circlet had yet not passed away
when every glacier primrose-sheened lagoon
lit up the mighty fastness whereon it lay.

VII.

Granite wildernesses, stupendous masses,
sight-deceiving unmeasured magnitudes
piled in more and more awful solitudes
toward their pinnacle summits ; cave-crevasses
like net-work in their numberless multitudes,

VIII.

shaping snow-fields as huge leaves petrified
intersected and fibrous with their veins,
miles in breadth, fathoms thick, long grey moraines*
right down the middle or banked on either side,
the silent-crawling glacier's old domains ;

IX.

rushing torrents from under them that issue
pouring white to the vale their broken thread,
where they join a large stream's block-rolling bed :
these wonders, wrought as in one consistent tissue,
evoke whate'er solemnity has of dread.

* *Moraine*, a 'pebble-ridge' of grey round stones formerly covered by the glacier.

X.

Wrapt therein I stood still and raised mine eyes
to the Hill-top of everlasting strength,
to the place which eternal wisdom bringeth ;
contemplating the snow-dome in moony skies,
but knowing not nor seeking my way. At length,

XI.

not far up I descried a man's form moving,
striding hastily down the slaty slope
straight toward me. Hereat I felt some hope,
that this might be a good chamois-hunter roving
and fit to guide ; he carried an axe and rope.

XII.

Iron-muscular was that man's huge frame,
iron-cast his bold swarthy countenance ;
as from caverns dark shot his lion glance,
so beetled o'er that high brow where thought did claim
long centuries of wisdom's inheritance.

XIII.

Many centuries had accumulated
all their winters upon his hoary beard
hanging comet-like o'er his chest unsheared,
yet not the summer day of his strength abated :
here surely was a man to be much revered.

XIV.

' Who is this that from out the roar of winds,
' from the snow-melting tempest and the crash
' where the avalanche doth its boulders dash
' down thunder-rattling ravines, from where frost binds
' the slow-rolled mass which strain-burst crevasses gash ;

XV. .

who,' I said, ' cometh thus upon my path,
' girt with might and with instruments to climb
' this high Mountain which from the date of Time
' hath none surmounted, but whence the lightning's wrath
' alone to man hath spoken with signs sublime ?

XVI. .

' Art thou truly a dweller in the height ?
' wilt thou also bring me to that high place
' whence thou comest ? hast thou the fount of grace
' found also ? knowest thou a diviner light
' than, son of thunder, I have met face to face ?'

XVII.

‘Nay,’ he courteously answered, ‘not diviner ;
‘peradventure howe’er I know it better,
‘though I come to thee as the killing Letter :
‘be thine to draw forth the inner meaning finer,
‘and free thy fellow men from an ancient fetter.

XVIII.

‘Since thou speakest of that yet hidden thing,
‘loiter not in the ways which thither lead :
‘climb the Mountain with me, set forth at speed.
‘Hear, O CALLISTE ! for I have found and bring
‘the servant whom thy pleasure supreme did need.’

XXVI.

Then together with steady tread we went,
firmly tied by the rope : our course lay first
up a shingly moraine ; we scarcely durst
turn round a moment, for each strained limb we bent
sent great loose stones down-bounding to crack and
[burst.

XXVII.

This was tedious work, although the cold
night-air rarified by the height relieved us
from distress at exertion ; much had grieved us
to plod up there in the sun ; we now could hold
our way, but moonlight almost as much deceived us

XXVIII.

as it helped to direct. Small holes and hollows
by their blackness seemed solid : widths to leap
in descent looked like easy steps to creep
ascending, rather : but who this highway follows
must be content his life, strength and health to keep

XXIX.

Pleasant change when we left the long moraine,
stepping on to the ice-sea's lower bed
where it steals to the piny valley's head
and contrasts with vegetation : sound and plain
this route compared with that I had just been led.

XXX.

Under foot the frost crystals crisply crackled,
sparkling sharp to the moon's unthickened pallor,
here and there thinly smeared with gritty squalor :
dispensing then with the rope our pace had shackled,
o'er rough glass flats we briskly pushed on with valor.

XXXI.

Ere this finished, the short midsummer night
whitened eastward, dawn just the moonbeam spoiled :
this made footing less sure ; the rope we coiled
upon a spring-bubbling rock till morning light,
determined our endeavor should not be foiled

XXXII.

by next sundown upon the Top to stand,
there awaiting CALLISTE's hallowed presence,
trusting biding Her will in full quiescence
upon its mercy, but ready at Her hand
to drink humiliation as highest pleasance.

XXXIII.

When we rested, I asked again my guide
what his office and name. 'Think not, good friend,
'curiosity prompts me to this end;
'thy wise instruction I better shall abide
'for knowing whom CALLISTE hath deigned to send.'

XXXIV.

Up the man stood before me ; with his staff,
with the pole of his axe the rock he smote,
saying, 'Drink of this spring and wet thy coat
'from head to foot therewith.' I made haste to quaff
the pure cold water ; he on the tablet wrote.

XXXV.

Then he gave me the tablet and I read :
*Hear the voice in the wilderness that crieth,
straighten ye the highway therein that lieth ;
prepare the path for our God : be not misled
to other gods : deceived with deceiver dieth.*

XXXVI.

'Yea, my son,' said the prophet solemnly,
leaning all his great weight the axe upon,
'I am he whom thy fathers followed on--
'but few to wisdom : thy fellow-worker I
'this day am he, thine eldest forefather JOHN.

XXXVII.

‘I indeed with this water so baptize,
‘but there cometh a greater after me,
‘whom above yon high ridge thou soon shalt see;
‘and he can lead us all truth to recognize:
‘be ours to bow thereto with humility.

XXXVIII.

‘There the fire is that cometh down from heaven,
‘giving light to the purely single-minded,
‘double blindness to those themselves have blinded:
‘there in the love-heat is understanding’s leaven;
‘but hard and high all thitherward ways are winded.’

XXXIX.

‘Prophet father,’ I answered, ‘’t is enough;
‘in the world I have often heard thy name
‘clothed with hollow and superstitious fame;
‘but now I know, howsoe’er the road be rough,
‘thou guidest by the bush of the holy flame

XL.

'to the Mountain-top of the God of All,
'whose ineffable glory thou dost show
'under writings which who hath ears may know.
'I, side by side thee, hearken not thy call,
'but Hers to whom both my head and thine are low.

XLI.

'Forward therefore, and if my speed should flag,
'weak alliance for thy long-gathered force,
'halt but till I recover: how the course
'be long and trying soe'er, I will up-drag
'my latest steps to body and soul's divorce.'

XLII.

'Forward then,' said the prophet. As he spoke,
crimson-belted became the distant air
round the uppermost crags; a sudden glare
lit up the snow-beds thereon; warm morning broke,
extinguishing the blank moon's last frigid stare.

XLIII.

Dark brown, dazzling white, now the freckled cliffs,
massed above in tremendous groups, looked out
from the vanishing dimness which about
the distant ranges had clung; with biting whiffs
the east breeze passed. Our hearts at these signs grew
[stout,

XLIV.

eager, cheerful; for this same opening day
should the end of these trying labors see:
when the Summit of All should mounted be,
and evermore sweet CALLISTE make Her way
accessible to all men as now to me.

XLV.

Forward: difficult climbing soon began:
at the foot of an ice-fall now we were,
at the part where the league-broad glacier,
an arctic chaos, in sudden curve down-ran,
like storm-raised billows frost-smote and held in air.

XLVI.

Every sort of fantastic pinnacle,
piled about to enormous height and bulk,
poised or leaned in the crush a weighty hulk ;
its ringing depths the unsunned receptacle
where torrents boom or rivulets gurgling skulk.

XLVII.

Penetrated by light, the narrow caves
showed transparent of pure and pale marine
sometimes deepened to blue ; the morning shine
made drip and slippery spar-white pillar waves
that crowded jostling down their allotted line.

XLVIII.

Over round and between these towers of ice
each precarious step the axe must cut :
greater obstacles did those vanquished put
for new achievement ; one slipping in a trice
would ready jaws of some dark crevasse engulf.

XLIX.

But the mutual link held both secure,
and the strength of my herculean guide
quickly checked any momentary slide :
yet still more formidable and more obscure
our way became, on ridges more steep less wide.

L.

Nought around but the tumbled ice-bergs cold ;
nought above but the blasty void of air ;
desolation most life-forsaken there
forbidding frowned on us : yet our faith kept hold
on Her unseen who led us with loving care.

LI.

High and hot was the sun when we emerged
from that ice-fall upon the open névé :*
care and courage less need was here to levy,
but rather energy ; danger here not urged
our efforts, but most irksome the toil and heavy.

LII.

Hill on round-headed hill and slope on slope,
fast as each was surmounted others rose :
white those glaring snow-ocean steeps did close
on every side, while the rocks, our distant hope,
did right and left sheer precipice walls oppose.

* *Névé*, the upper region of a glacier, commonly spoken of as 'eternal snow.' It mixes the characters of ice and snow ; its surface is always covered with snow, the consistency of which varies with the temperature of the air. It is sometimes many hundreds of feet in thickness, as may be seen by looking down its fearful chasms or *crevasses*.

LIII.

Zig-zag winding with slow unvaried tramp,
up up up in the ever loosening snow,
softening deepening beneath the noontide glow,
we strove determined; our clothes with heat grew damp,
our lungs distressed, but upward we still must go.

LIV.

'T is Her will,' said the guide whene'er I faltered :
this our watchword seemed to brace us both
unto any exertion, made me loth
to think of rest ; but the prophet's wisdom altered
my judgment apt to veer between haste and sloth.

LV.

When we reached a flat spot and paused thereon,
I more fell than lay down in sudden sleep :
ere forgetfulness could entirely steep
my long-wake brain, I was roused to work by John,
who said, 'Alert ! we must not a sabbath keep

LVI.

'in this place : SHE will give thee rest at need,
'rest which is not the rest of them that perish,
'rest which can both the soul and body cherish
'and sanctify them. So make we now good speed,
'though hot the sun, the snow though intensely garish.'

LVII.

Then—for feverish thirst I felt, no hunger—
came a different hardship : when to drink
touched my lips the pure sapphire chalice' brink,
I found it empty. 'Thou wilt not need it longer,'
said John, 'for wine awaits thee thou dost not think ;

LVIII.

'bring it on ne'ertheless, and I will bear it
'when thy hands shall be wanted otherwise.'
Ere we moved, he looked northward at the skies :
a cloud had gathered about the Summit, where it
as if attracted clung, could not pass nor rise.

LIX.

'Clouds and darkness are round about thy throne ;
'righteous judgment the vesture of thy seat :
'yet, O Star of the morn and eve ! if meet,
'let now thy glorious Name abroad be known,
'the humbled earth crouch worshipping at thy feet.

LX.

'Star of morning and evening ! Gate of heaven !
'Root and offspring of David ! 'Golden Dome !
'New Jerusalem ! Jacob's promised Home !
'eternal Rainbow of Nations ! who hast given
'to us thy servants thus far unharmed to come :

LXI.

‘still watch over us, lead us by the hand,
‘help and prosper us in our search for thee :
‘seeing, Crown of the angels ! thy decree
‘hath brought us hither to face these dangers grand,
‘let thy reward our Safe-guiding Lantern be.’

LXII.

Having ended this prayer, the prophet went forward vigorously ; the rope quick-tightening pulled me after at once, not little lightening the task of snow-ploughing strides ; for day far-spent made knee-deep snow, while yellowed its milder brightening.

LXIII.

More crevassed too the névé's higher region : slender snow-bridges fearful chasms concealed till the foot slipping through a glimpse revealed : these hidden dangers more scared us than the legion of bare seràcs,* and had not our will been steeled

* *Seràcs*, the ridges or broken waves of the ice-fall of a glacier.

LXIV.

by the object we looked for at the end,
here assuredly both my guide and I
had been tempted to stay and sleep—and die;
fatigue, anxiety, so contrived to blend
their undermining forces incessantly.

LXV.

But at last, when the base of an *arête*,*
buttress ridge-wall of rock that ran in height
up to four thousand feet—long since in sight—
was close—within a few moments—which our fate
depended on attaining ere close of night,

LXVI.

then the strength of the iron-sinewed man,
inexhaustible notwithstanding all,
with a waist-buried effort and a fall
once back, the rock-edge made good. He said, 'I can
'no further lead thee; wait for the second call.'

* *Arêtes* are the sharp jagged spurs of mountain-cliff, the upward convergence of which forms at their point of junction a peak strictly so called.

CHAPTER III.

VERSE I.

Hark ! a noise as of horse-hoofs loudly clattering
on a Broadway of stone far overhead !
What disturbance is on the pathless bed
of snow perennial ? what means this light pattering
of shaly débris thick down about us shed ?

II.

‘ See ! a warhorse ! a warhorse on the cliff !
‘ running on the arête as ’t were a bridge !
‘ moving galloping down the rocky ridge
‘ where not a chamois could go ! I hear him sniff
‘ and snort the breeze. There ! down he comes on that
[ledge

III.

‘ o’er a precipice several hundred feet !
‘ This no animal is, no mortal being,
‘ but a ghost with a ghostly rider fleeing ;
| and both are white as the whitest snow they beat
‘ and scatter. Prophet, what is this phantom fleet ?’

IV.

'He I said,' answered John, 'who after me
'placed in order, before me is preferred
'as to value: his name is widely heard,
'but as the sign of a gross idolatry,
'the badge of them who far from their God have erred.

V.

'Men have forced on him loathed honors; they
'for their purpose have made him bear their sin,
'not to take it away, but double sin
'by adding doctrine to deed. At last his day
'of freedom cometh; we will rejoice therein.'

VI.

Straight and rapidly came the snow-white steed
till a short distance up he seemed to hover:
looking steadfastly I could just discover
the rider's lineaments, which did much indeed
resemble those of John, but the phantom rover—

VII.

I supposed him—was not so bleached by age ;
finely firm and hard set was every feature :
like a warrior stern, while less in stature
than John, he seemed as to that which makes the sage
so nobly formed as can be the subject creature.

VIII.

Halting near enough, he addressed us not ;
beckoned only to John, who hurled the rope
so the far end just topped the lowest slope :
the spirit seized it and turned upon the spot
his mighty horse. ' No more shall we have to cope

IX.

' with these difficulties unhelped,' said John
while himself he attached some yards in rear :
fast but steadily up between two sheer
tremendous cliff-walls the white horse pulled us on,
along the jagged razor-like edge that here

X.

rose, there sharply dipped. Lo ! they underwent
wondrous metamorphosis, horse and man :
bright and brighter they both to shine began,
and as they brightened, a dark pair,* thither sent
I knew not whence, more black on their left side ran.

* White and black *horses* signify respectively the illumined and the perverted *Understanding*. Vid. Swedenborg's work on the White Horse of the Johanneic Apocalypse.

XI.

‘Unaccountable shadow!’ I exclaimed
half appealing to John. He said, ‘No matter;
‘have a care here; a slip our link might shatter;’
then added, ‘Let not my curtness now be blamed;
‘thou all shalt learn, the former things and the latter.’

XII.

Up we passed, up the dizzy steep arête :
ghastly precipices on either side
perpendicular off that rough ledge wide
not half a foot, seemed an ever instant fate :
‘t was marvellous to see the two horses glide

XIII.

up and down the most formidable places.
‘Here,’ said John, pointing downward as he bent
o’er the worst of these, ‘some this way who went
‘without our leader were, just as yon chip races,
‘right down the crags in hurried destruction sent.’*

* How many great names among the number, those who have
looked for God *without* instead of *within* ?

XIV.

This was little encouraging ; at length
passed in safety was that most dismal terror,
passed at least without any fatal error ;
and holding on by both hands with nervous strength
I once looked back and saw, like a silver mirror

XV.

framed by blue misty flats in distance lost,
thirteen thousand feet down, a gleaming pond :
't was the largest of those great lakes beyond
the mountain range and long passes lately crossed :
the south campagne its sun-drawn thin veil had donned.

XVI.

'Now the ice wall, and then our work is done ?'
asked I, turning to John, who shook his head :
'Yes, but 't is not the lightest part,' he said ;
'and see that cloud-rack so quickly coming on ;
't will be upon us soon, which I somewhat dread.'

XVII.

'Fear not,' uttered the spirit, 'that it last ;
'though e'en should it last, I could find the way
'notwithstanding my fellow. And the ray
'which cometh after, when yonder gloom is past,
'shall make our eve more excellent than the day.'

XVIII.

Thus he said and compelled his horse to breast
that steep lofty smooth côte* of hard-glazed snow :
keen the cloud-bearing blast began to blow,
with purblind vapor the Mountain to invest,
and sand-fine ice like dust in our eyes to throw.

XIX.

Chilled and blinded, with slow and careful steps—
John each step with his ringing axe cut deep—
on we crept up that vast unbroken steep ;
the White Horse bearing our weight in spite of slips,
such counterpoise his all-holding hoofs could keep.

XX.

Three long wearisome unrewarded hours
thus we passed in the Cloud, when suddenly
' Ha ! the Summit ! ' we heard our leader cry ;
and John repeated, ' The Summit ! — yes 't is ours— [sky.
' there—that white mound which peeps from the clearing

* Côte, the fall or decline of a névé over a cliff, making the precipitous slope called an ice-wall.

XXI.

Swiftly lifting, round-gathered into one
central column, the Cloud rose straight on high ;
floated stationary in mellow dye
of setting sunlight above a creamy cone,
an ice-calotte* that stood up alone hard by.

XXII.

In magnificent unobscured array
east and west stretched away the snowy chain :
high-range peaks far below us seemed like plain,
so much depressed were they by our height. Deep lay
blue Southland, but to scan its haze-hood was vain.

XXIII.

Near the Summit desired with vigils long,
Hardly I could control imprudent haste :
John restrained me, suggesting, ' Not too fast ;
' observe the leader ; we else might yet go wrong,
' advancing ere preliminaries be past.'

* *Calotte*, a round peak of ice or snow, unbroken by visible rock.

XXIV.

'Mystic,' then said the spirit, turning quite
so that down-hill his horse gigantic faced,
'seest thou westward a lone rock-pillar placed
'upon that dome-like round snow-hill's crest still bright
'with sunset where day's natural course is traced ?

XXV.

'That is called the great stone in Gibeon—
'be not over concerned about the name,
'but remember the sign. That stone doth flame
'with present sun-time, but when its use is gone
'the Phallic Power shall wholly be put to shame.

XXVI.

'Look now eastward on that pure vale of snow,
'inward-narrowing rock-bound corridor :
'that is Ajalon where, when all is o'er,
'delights celestial shall together grow,
'the other sign out-blotted for evermore.

XXVII.

'While the fight lasteth, let them so remain
'as they are. Now, O God ! incline thine ear
'that the sun and the moon shall also hear,
'and he I bring shall perceive of truth most plain
'that thou art God in Beauty who shalt appear.

XXVIII.

'Sun on Gibeon, moon on Ajalon,
'stand ye still!' No more space the shadow wins
up red snow : blank the peeping moon's face grins,
stopped o'er the rock-vale. The spirit's visage shone :
'Mystic, thank God : the Apocalypse now begins,

XXIX.

'yea, the Apocalypse which the scripture showeth
'must precede that eternal sabbath day
'when Love's Form shall Her whole creation sway.
'Its mortal flesh my new spirit no more knoweth :
'the former dispensation doth pass away.'

XXX.

Saying this, he dismounted, left his horse
facing east ; the black rider mounted stayed
on the left of the horse ; the spirit made
a sign to John, who throughout our latter course
had borne my cup, to leave it here ; he obeyed.

XXXI.

Then the spirit detached from us the cord,
threw it down on the snow, and took his station
just before me to lead ; the celebration
of this great Mystery needed that the Word
should lead and John should follow my aspiration.

XXXII.

Thus we Three, as the spirit ordered, stood
mute, in attitude ready to proceed
up the slope where no dangers would impede
our further progress to that pure snowy hood
which whoso tops from bondage of earth is freed ;

XXXIII.

freed because if the Son shall make you free,
of One parent who all his freedom hath,
then indeed from that Parent's turnless path
ye shall not swerve, but thrice-blessed shall ye be
and shall escape the terrible judgment wrath.

XXXIV.

But and if ye do like a broken bow
start aside, or in blind idolatry
sleep midway and the light beyond deny ;
be sure your idols of earth shall be brought low,
and ye—deserted slaves—in your earth shall die.

XXXV.

In that day shall ye run and call upon
rocks to hide you and hills to cover you
from the Holy whose own your idols slew :
the time then past, your salvation's daylight gone,
remorse with thorns your downward dark way must
[strew.

BOOK III

CHAPTER I.

THE APOCALYPSE.

VERSE I.

Hark ! it thunders within the pillar cloud ;
round about play the writhing snakes of fire :
hands invisible strike an awful lyre ;
and multitudinous voices sing more loud
than all the thunder's crashes most deep and dire.

II.

Right across the cloud-pillar, spanning heaven,
shines an arc of vermillion, like the red
sunlight fixed on each taller mountain's head,
but seven times more intense : the cloud part-riven
reveals a burning bush whence the glare is shed.

III.

'On !' commanded the spirit. On we moved
ten steps upward ; he raised his hand and stayed :
every motion we watchfully obeyed—
of habit John, I because the One so loved
had predetermined thus my ascent to aid.

IV.

Crash ! it thunders and lightens as before :
orange, violet, blue, green, yellow, all
rainbow colors upon that rainbow fall ;
each one a thunder succeeds. We ten steps more
each thunder after make at the spirit's call.

V.

During this the unseen angelic choir
sing in chorus far louder than the sea
when foam-buffed reefs chide stormily :
it seemed each thunder-peal grand did fresh inspire
the mighty psalm to break forth more joyously.

VI.

Red, the seventh hue and the first, completed
that celestial arc ; but ere 't was done,
with the air-rending peal such lightning shone,
such wondrous fire-shoots the cloudy pillar sheeted,
that dazzled, scared, we bore not to look thereon.

VII.

But when sight was recovered, all at once
on the snow we together prostrate fell—
wherefore ? That we beheld—no tongue may tell
the glory as it appeared : we did ensconce
our faces some few moments ; the sudden spell

VIII.

made us moveless and speechless. I essayed
whispered offer of prayer—no words would come:
John would cross—but could not unclasp a thumb:
a mute appeal to our third by glance he made;
but Christ the Spirit also himself was dumb.

IX.

We in seventy steps had reached a spot
where the Summit of All our hands could touch
as we bowed side by side in prostrate crouch;
a narrow plateau beyond which rise was not,
but sky yawned round, deep-tending to earth's dim
[couch.

X.

On this flat, by the rolled cloud canopied,
stood CALLISTE, ineffable in glory,
on the top of Her Holy Mountain hoary,
in pomp of majesty fully deified;
not like Her former advent in this true story.

XI.

With bare feet stood the Virgin on the snow ;
bare her limbs up to just below the knee
showed voluptuous fulness maidenly,
where from Her cincture a candid frock did flow
fine, half opaque, as cliff-spray back-smokes to sea.

XII.

From Her shoulders a brilliant scarlet mantle
fell wide-spreading behind its gorgeous train,
closed in front on the breast and held amain
by dazzling stones of a breastplate which to handle
durst none but virgins, healers of sin and pain.

XIII.

In the breastplate was every precious stone,
set in workmanship of the finest ore,
ranged in numbers containing all the lore
of magic ; yet all the stones expressed but One
which is and was and shall be for evermore.

XIV.

Bare their symmetry showed Her soft strong arms,
only small at the supple nervous joints ;
calmly rested the left ; Her right hand points
a golden sceptre, the rod whose ruling charms
dead dust to life : thrice-happy whom She anoints

XV.

with the oil of her gladness ; this is life,
life that cometh anew of truth-born love
emblemized by the resting golden dove
which heads that sceptre whose sway is not by strife :
Her crown of seven glittering stars above

XVI.

rich profusion of heavy-streaming hair,
as when first I beheld Her beauty seen,
lit the brow of the universal queen :
but though majestic and grave, that young face fair
looked mercy with its soul-reading gaze serene.

XVII.

In a moment a shriek of utter terror
rose below us in rear ; the black Shade fled,
horse and rider, in wholly reckless dread :
e'en so precipitate was his maddened error,
he slipped the ridge and down was shot heels o'er head.

XVIII.

Then CALLISTE by sign commanded us
side by side to approach Her presence near,
whose warm suavity calmed our righteous fear :
we rose, advanced, knelt again before Her, thus
completing the *Ascent of Man's Wisdom* here.

XIX.

Yea, the Summit, the Summit of the Soul
is surmounted, the Holy Hill is won :
all mankind in this planet's time hath done
is underfoot, and the Object of the whole
hath on her mountain, perfect in Beauty, shone.

XX.

Hearer ! wouldst thou these fables understand ?
read, mark, learn what the Seven Thunders said,
when CALLISTE the power upon me laid,
commanding me on my heart with fire to brand
the words of him She raised from among the dead,

XXI.

saying, ' Formerly was the Secret hidden :
' men had hardened their hearts, would not allow
' truth to enter, had made a stubborn vow
' to serve that Wicked : for this cause was forbidden
' to show those things the Thunders said.* Write them
[now.

* και οτε εκραξεν ελαλησαν αι επτα βρονται τας εαυτων φωνας
και οτε ελαλησαν αι επτα βρονται τας φωνας εαυτων, εμελλον γραφειν

XXII.

‘ Christ your Spirit shall speak, while John shall hold
 ‘ this Third Table, which flaming all shall eat,
 ‘ so that inly ye may receive the meat
 ‘ which my flesh is that I gave to them of old :
 ‘ alas ! how trampled under profaning feet.’

XXIII.

Humbly kissing it as She gave the Table,
 I received and presented this to John
 with his finger held up to write thereon—
 as She its utterance should through Christ enable—
 the final Revelation to come anon.

XXIV.

CHRIST THE SPIRIT thus at my right knelt free :
 JOHN THE BODY at left the Table held :
 I—yet not I, howbeit the SOUL—did weld
 myself and them into One. So thus we Three
 vicegerents were of all the God-seers of eld.

και ηκουσα φωνην εκ του ουρανου λεγουσαν μοι, Σφραγισον α ελαλησαν αι επτα βρονται, και μη ταυτα γραψης.

‘ And when he cried, the Seven Thunders uttered their voices. And when the Seven Thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write ; and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the Seven Thunders uttered, and write them not.’—Rev. x. 3, 4.

XXV.

Her sweet voice heard again had filled me inly
with the ecstasy of its fire divine,
quick imparted along our triune line :
Almighty Love, whom the white skirt veiled so thinly,
restored my speech. ' Most Holy ! the earth is thine !'

XXVI.

Lo ! descending from out the burning bush
mid the pillar-cloud six young virgins came,
rainbow-clothed and in order ranged the same
as in the rainbow each color, where the blush
of halted sunset, strangely, no part could claim.

XXVII.

Each young glorious angel differed much
from the others, each lovely in her kind
with celestial purity of mind ;
but not one beauty was new, for every such
eye-lifting worship doth in CALLISTE find.

XXVIII.

Each a candlestick bore of purest gold,
wicks unlighted as yet ; on each side three
stood beside the Supreme One's majesty :
and thus unveiled we ascended Three beheld
the seven lamps of manifest deity.

XXIX.

By the stars of CALLISTE'S circlet lighted,
Christ spake, John wrote, and I the writing read:
Spirit, Body, Soul, so distributed
to each his duty, so each with all united,
the Seven Thunders opened: hear what they said.

XXX.

Hear, but look to it, take heed how ye hear;
for the 'old man,' the 'flesh,' the Letter, killeth:
he idolatrous who that dead earth tilleth
not as the husbandmen, doth but waste the year:
he with a grainless corn his life's garners filleth.

CHAPTER II.

THE APOCALYPSE CONTINUED.

N THE FIRST THUNDER.

VERSE I.

' ALEPH, In the beginning was the Word ;
' and the Word was for thee and came from thee ;
' for apart from thy will can nothing be,
' Eternal Mother of All ! *I am* the Word,
' through whom mayall men come to thee clean and free.

II.

' But they come to rebel against their source.
' Yea, thine own word against thee hath been spoken ;
' men have idolized this vice-gerent token :
' the strong foundations of earth are out of course ;
' the whole head sick, the whole heart is faint and
[broken.

III.

' MARY ! Mother Immaculate ! thy priests
' not for thy sake have called thee by that name,
' not the *Godhead of Woman* to proclaim :
' by incense, gorgeous processions, solemn feasts,
' they make pretence, they flatter, with other aim.

IV.

‘How fine gold is obscured, how silver turned
‘into likeness of dross by poison’s heat!
‘water-mixed how the wine-cup fragrant sweet!
‘the scattered stones of thy sanctuary spurned
‘in every wasted head of the common street!

V.

‘Owls and bitterns and satyrs there among
‘in the heart of the shrine find safe retreat; -
‘noisesome foul-feeding things have banquet meet:
‘thy temple’s gems to the Dog-power crew belong,
‘yea, ALEPH! ALEPH! trod in the common street.

VI.

‘Now the lamp of our first eternal day
‘thou, primordial virgin ALEPH, light.
‘Thou alone dost divide the wrong and right;
‘and all is evil which doth not thee obey,
‘and all is good that feedeth thy burning bright.’

VII.

Christ ceased speaking, but not the symphony—
ALEPH ! ALEPH !—that from the unseen host
swelled in grandeur or in hushed moans was lost
beneath the Mountain or up the frosty sky,
or echoes woke, from cliff to cliff shouting tossed.

VIII.

Minutes passed and the music died not quite :
ALEPH ! ALEPH ! made all the ice-caves ring ;
loosed the avalanche bursting down to fling
its rumbling powdering masses out of sight ;
till, ALEPH's lamp once lighted, they ceased to sing,

IX.

She primordial virgin ALEPH lighted
from the first of CALLISTE's stars her wick,
only looking thereon—those stars are quick
and true in commune—then with the part ignited
she touched Christ's lips with mereury alchemic.

X.

Folded hands on his breast, with closing eyes,
down he bowed till his forehead touched the snow :
then his uplifted brow with light did glow,
and thus again did his trumpet voice arise
that e'en the valleys heard it most far below.

I THE SECOND THUNDER.

XI.

‘ BETH, thy subject is earth, the masculine,
‘ where thou hidest incarnate to fulfil
‘ works which else would have been achieved ill,
‘ without progression ; but heaven, the feminine,
‘ art thou thyself who crownest this Holy Hill.

XII.

‘ BETH is Bethlehem’s Star, the House of Bread :
‘ Christ is born in This Place of Intuition
‘ as the clitoric power ; to low condition
‘ he groweth up as the phallic, but shall shed
‘ his slough of sex, be female at thy volition.’

XIII.

Thus far Christ to the Second Day, whose face
shone in turn with the wick lit from its star ;
while reverberated throughout and far
the mountain ground with the giddy depths of bass
that vibrated BETH ! BETH ! to the middle bar.*

XIV.

Then BETH made not his lips a crucible
with the touch of her fire : her right hand tended
laid him down to the next, whose beauty blended
love's mercy-milk with desire so terrible
that all our nerves their remnant of force expended

XV.

at her glance. Now a grand new symphony
whispered softly then swelled to mighty roar ;
John and I still remaining as before
some cubits off from the Seven : suddenly
the music ceased, Christ spake, of himself, once more.

* *Middle Bar*, an imaginary musical string supposed to be drawn through the centre of the universe, and to sound the fundamental bass of all its harmonies.

] THE THIRD THUNDER.

XVI.

‘NUN, the Word become flesh art thou in males,
‘but God manifest so in flesh art not;
‘for thy manifestation hath no spot
‘of man’s iniquity : he it is who fails
‘to render back thy gifts without stain or blot :

XVII.

‘he it is—thine earth-principle—who taketh
‘life and nourishment from thee, in return
‘doth the Giver by thought, word, action, spurn,
‘degradeth Her to the subject’s place and maketh
‘her pure-born soul a foul and false fuel burn.

XVIII.

‘O that men would consider yet these things,
• ‘would but perfectly trust thy gentleness,
‘yield themselves to thy heaven-taught soft caress,
‘not seek to work their own pleasure, which but brings
‘to them a curse, to thee doubt and feebleness.

XIX.

‘We receive thee, O NUN ! and those receiving
‘surely are not of Adam’s transgress born,
‘of the old man or flesh. Leave not forlorn
‘our heart-strings dried by protracted famine’s grieving,
‘but in thy loving-kindness exalt our horn.

XX.

'Come like sunset upon a western bay
'swathing cities in mild vermillion light!
'we will sleep in thy blood-warm gazes bright
'until we flush with thine ingress, e'en as they
'with gorgeous change ere hiding in purple night.

XXI.

'For the lowly who worship gods of earth,
'turn them, NUN! from their dark deluded course:
'show them while there is time the virgin source
'whence every beauty of holiness hath birth,
'and save them from their morbid religions' curse.

XXII.

'Stay thy wrath, for they know not what they do:
'peradventure they not refuse to hear:
'rather yet hath the Truth not reached their ear,
'which when proclaimed they will hearken thereunto,
'and kneel before thy righteousness coming near.'

XXIII.

NUN, her lighted wick holding o'er his head,
bent o'er Christ till she seemed with him to kneel:
we could tell not what he began to feel,
but this we certify—paleness as of dread
o'ercame his face, his consciousness seemed to reel.

XXIV.

Rise he could not from that strong close compression
e'en when loosened the sated fire its hold:
nay, to part from her now had made him cold,
had nipped as frost doth a bud the full confession;
she held him through the threefold remainder told.

P THE FOURTH THUNDER.

XXV.

'KOPH, the soul wherein thou hast made thy dwelling,
'one brief moment, O virginal desire!
'by the dart of thine eyes' all-searching fire,
'where famine was leaving full and free veins swelling
'and quiet nerves—can no other light require.

XXVI.

'Sun moon stars of the soul are all therein
'and the greater light that celestial spark
'so exceeding that they have called it Dark
'who faint before it. Our food, our medicine,
'our wine is this, our future life's cloud-set arc.

XXVII.

'Things shall fail ; they are nothing, SHE is All,
'in whose veiling now day and night orbs shine :
'signs and seasons to One thing shall incline,
'one sign, one season, one light, the final call
'shall manifest. KOPH, hasten the work ; 't is thine.

XXVIII.

'Fourth Day, first of the lights in darkness ! show
'where that darkness doth melt again in light.
'Virgins' majesty KOPH ! is not the night
'wherein thy galaxy but the way we go
'to find that Dark than sun moon and stars more bright ?

XXIX.

KOPH ! rang out the descending deep vibrations
while KOPH lighted her lamp ; and while his head
Christ reposed on the heart of NUN, who fed
the growing Word with her milk, a coruscation
like northern lights abroad all the sky was shed.

XXX.

Low and plaintive and in a minor key,
struggling into its joyous major strain,
sounded forth the great symphony again ;
and at the hush came in word of mystery
the Fifth of Days, whose light had long hidden lain.

7 THE FIFTH THUNDER.

XXXI.

'DALETH, Star of the Sea, O Beauty-power !
'virgin Orient of the boundless deep !
'thou art She on whose bosom troubles sleep
'and joys awake, thou for whose bright rising hour
'creation doth a much-groaning vigil keep.

XXXII.

‘Thou that star art O Daleth, virgin love !
‘stormy dangerous is the way to thee
‘through the wind rock and water : e’en though free,
‘our freedom were to destroy except above
‘thy calm and gentle countenance watched the sea.

XXXIII.

‘sore afflicted in our chief heart’s desire,
‘still we eastward voyage o’er the rough-topped billows:
‘gales have bent our tried masts like twigs of willows
‘and split our sails : not the less thy silver fire
‘points where at last thy mariner’s worn head pillows.

XXXIV.

‘From dark blue of the sea and blue of air
‘shine those radiant merciful soft eyes
‘in the sunset and lull. Low surf that sighs
‘against the rocks let it whispered worship bear:
‘sweet sea-born Beauty ! guard us, love ! hear our cries.

XXXV.

‘Throw thy garments off on the scudding spray :
‘lie with me on the flashy crests of foam
‘in thy naked and wanton strength. The dome
‘of glad cerulean heaven’s unbashful day
‘shall curtain DALETH’S lust in her native home.

XXXVI.

' Salt the wave is where floats thy golden hair,
' but thy warm breath more sweet than cold brine salt;
' and the billow and the meridian vault
' are not so deep as thy heaving fulness fair,
' so high as doth thy ravishing clasp exalt.

XXXVII.

' Ah! to drown in thy glowing deep of flesh—
' flesh divine which eternal life conferreth—
' from the bottom Lev-yàthan's forces stirreth,
' the deep to boil making more than breakers dash,
' the deep to roar with joy more than thunder jarreth.

XXXVIII.

' O Lev-yàthan, great serpent of the Sea!
' how thou sleepest and wakest at Her will!
' thou art Hers, She created thee to fill
' Her bath of luxury by compressing thee
' till She hath used thy life and the Deep is still.

XXXIX.

' DALETH! DALETH! white-bosomed Ocean Star!
' guide, keep, comfort us; let thine eyes of peace
' their delicious incision never cease:
' thou art at hand, thou art not a God afar,
' whose look floods ruleth, touch maketh earth increase.'

XL.

Soft in whispers the music hushed away :
DALETH ! DALETH ! those viewless singers sigh ;
DALETH ! DALETH ! the blue-green caves reply ;
the Fifth Day lighted her lamp which did out-ray
the brightest star that shines in the southern sky.

XLI.

But ere silence prevailed, another sound
broke with startling effect upon the air :
bugle trumpets brayed forth a loud fanfare ;
among those vast mountain cliffs the echoes wound,
and from their pasture chamois in troops did scare.

XLII.

Then the sixth virgin, on CALLISTE'S right
third, the last on our left, stood forth and raised
both her hands as in blessing, while she gazed
now full on John. Thus the Spirit's inner light
in Christ the wondrous depth of the Letter praised.

D THE SIXTH THUNDER.

XLIII.

‘MEM: hear heavens, and give ear, O deeps and earth !
 ‘Virgin MEM our Sixth Day ! of thee is born
 ‘Man who shall to thy holy love return :
 not that old Adam whence all males sin from birth ;
 ‘for dust he is and shall unto dust return.

XLIV.

‘And the new man whom thou hast vivified
 ‘kneeleth here, e’en the man whose name is John :*
 ‘in the wilderness hath he lived upon
 ‘the desert’s honey and meat, and long hath cried
 ‘to those who err and after strange gods are gone.

XLV.

‘He throughout hath been faithful to his charge :
 ‘many asked of him, mocking, Who art thou ?
 ‘but they made him not falter from his vow
 ‘to keep thy Secret which soon shall be at large :
 ‘with wreath of mercy, MEM, therefore crown him now.

* JOHN, Johannes, Ιωαννης, יְהוֹנָתָן JEHOVAH-NISSI, *The Eternal-my-Banner.*

XLVI.

‘ Having after thine image made him Man
‘ with dominion of things subordinate,
‘ all which, each in their place, to him relate
‘ in thee and for thee—let not this great work’s plan
‘ lie useless now at this its appointed date.

XLVII.

‘ Since this Œdipus, ruler of the city,
‘ could, sweet Sphinx of the world, thy riddle read
‘ sight restore to his eyes, his lame feet speed
‘ among the nations, and for thy loving pity
‘ to cool Colonos nightingale-haunted lead.

XLVIII.

‘ On the harp his dark speech he long hath shown,
‘ and the parable still in vain displaying,
‘ hath been vilified by the falsely praying :
‘ but now this day shall his hidden worth be known
‘ and we thereof will openly witness saying,

XLIX.

‘ Blessed be the true God of Israel,
‘ who hath Israel visited, redeemed,
‘ raising him that was low to be esteemed—
‘ not light itself, but the one sent forth to tell
‘ that from on high the Dayspring at last hath beamed.

L.

And thou John shalt the Prophet High be called ;
for, the MYSTERY OF THE MOUNTAIN teaching,
thou shalt go to all worlds, in symbols preaching
the Name of names heretofore in darkness palled,
'and for the dark light's merciful love beseeching.'

M

CHAPTER III.

(THE APOCALYPSE CONTINUED.)

VERSE I.

Thus in six Days the heaven and earth created—
not the old earth and heaven all soiled with sin,
but where righteousness new heavens dwelleth in,
where truth new earths—he to whom was delegated
the word of power his final great rest could win.

II.

MEM's light burning, the chorus died away ;
then a mighty new outburst shook the ground,
still prolonged while the furthest heights around
its echoes traveled, until with sudden fray
the Judgment Trumpet's voice did the worlds astound.

III.

At those terrible notes the sun became
black, enveloped as with a hairy hood ;*
comets rushed about space in fiery flood ;
the blue earth paled at the Seventh Thunder's name,
and in the east the moon became red as blood.

IV.

Overhead a white cross of flame appeared,
and a wailing wind swept the gorges past ;
lava from a volcano spouted fast
in red-hot jets : nature all confounded feared
the Judgment Trumpet's earth-rending thunder-blast.

V.

In the terror and whirl the holy Seven
were not visible ; we were left alone
on the storm-loosened snow of that high cone,
the place of glory ; around, a flashing heaven ;
below, crags, snowfields, where the cold wind did moan.

VI.

Loud and louder it shrieked and whistled on,
till a voice it seemed rather than a wind,
and great awe thereof filled our doubting mind ;
we thought the Eternal in wrath might ride thereon :
yet was not Tetragrammaton in the wind.

* The student is left to discover for himself the exact meaning of this apparition.

VII.

When it lulled we fell rolling on the snow ;
for with violence of a sudden shock,
lo ! an earthquake the Mountain's base did rock ;
it heaved up valleys and toppled peaks below :
yet was not Tetragrammaton in the shock.

VIII.

Then the pillar-cloud with its burning bush
altogether became a mass of fire,
swollen up in a columned fountain spire
that poured down red cloven tongues in rapid gush :
yet was not Tetragrammaton in the fire.

IX.

Then a film as of milk o'ergrew our sight
while, within, we a still small voice could hear
saying, *I am your Godhead—have no fear—
the Lord your Godhead in blindness ; now in light
behold my form my visage my name appear.*

X.

Then we looked and saw neither heaven nor earth :
ONE alone stood above, whose love-warm ray
saved our life by its smile—else nought could stay
except that Summit where HER young form stood forth
whence—from HER face—earth's mountains had fled
[away.

XI.

She CALLISTE, whose name *Most Beautiful*
hath in this Revelation thus far been
known as loving vile earth, although the queen
of virgin angels ; whom our perception dull
confounds with objects carnally felt, heard, seen ;

XII.

She who still is about our bed and path,
By Her quick spirit spying out our ways ;
She celestial mirror of our days,
uncomprehended, unvalued ; She who hath
by men been spoiled, so men with spoilt gold repays ;

XIII.

She whom seeking far-off among the stars,
in the depth of the waters or the ground,
making caverns and floods and skies resound
with invocations of truth, yet setting bars
to quest of truth where only it can be found ;

XIV.

we have willed not to own as close at hand,
in our dwellings, our streets, within ourselves,
our perfection and crown, not found on shelves
of dusty scrolls, but alive upon the land,
not where thought climbs or deep down in darkness
[delves :

XV.

consummation and head of uncreated
things, Creator of all created, ONE,
broken lights comprehending :—there alone
the Virgin stood with Her glory unabated ;
we three vice-gerents lying before Her prone.

XVI.

In prostration we did with fear rejoice :
sanctified was the subjugated earth,
life conceiving from light its love-wrought girth,
a young girl's beauty that light. With solemn voice
thus Christ the Spirit gave the LAST JUDGMENT forth.

CHAPTER IV.

‘ and קדמי ’

THE SEVENTH THUNDER,

BEING

THE DEEP SECRET, *

THE MOUNTAIN MYSTERY

AND

THE LAST JUDGMENT.

VERSE I.

- ‘ JOD. First Stone, † Stone of Light ! so long refused
 ‘ by the builders who builded Babel high
 ‘ where thy temple’s arch should have spanned the sky,
 ‘ Woe ! how thy presence divine hath been abused
 • ‘ by them who see not be the light e’er so nigh !

II.

- ‘ JOD. Thou breathest to us the breath of life,
 ‘ thou who art life itself and love and light,
 ‘ mercy, justice and judgment, truth and right,
 ‘ peace, beauty, sweetness, the harmony of strife,
 ‘ end, cause, effect and essence of all delight.

* ‘ Man shall come to the deep heart and God shall be glorified.’—*Roman Ritual*.

† EBEN KADMAI, *primordial stone*, spelt with the seven Hebrew

III.

' All that lives, moves and is, the universe,
' hath from thee and for thee alone existence ;
' for without thee it could not keep subsistence :
' it is thy Thought, writ in hieroglyphic verse
' which they shall read who offer thee not resistance.

IV.

' But how blind have we been—how worse than blind !
' Day by day we resist thy saving grace ;
' daily, hourly men look upon thy face
' and yet not see thee ; for in their carnal mind
' the earth-abomination usurps thy place :

V.

' earth, the principle of inert gross power,
' where the quadruped's bulk eclipseth man
' more than his passeth woman's ; brute force can
' extinguish trample on the divinest flower
' of passion's art, on thought's most exalted plan :

VI.

' earth, consummated in the human male,
' communistic like soil to seeds implanted—
' female seed that male soil for changes wanted ;
' while we blind fools have supposed the sower male,
' and therefore praise to earth, not to heaven, have
[chanted.

letters Aleph, Beth, Nun, Koph, Daleth, Mem, Yod. This recondite symbol of Deity—the Philosophers' Stone—appears to have been alchemic and perhaps also masonic.

VII.

‘ O crass darkness ! O wretched ignorance !
‘ how our paradise gates ourselves have locked !
‘ how the colors of morn with black out-blocked !
‘ then round our evil Delusion raved in dance,
‘ while angels mourned, hell’s demons rejoiced and
[mocked !

VIII.

‘ True, thou readest the heart, and offerings
‘ conscientious to Error’s altars brought
‘ hast thou judged by the motive, not the thought,
‘ still leading honesty blindfold. Times and things
‘ which veiled thee done, thy face must, O God ! be sought.

IX.

‘ Now we see it, e’en we whom here this day
‘ to the Summit of Wisdom hast thou led—
‘ awful summit none else have dared to tread :
‘ and we with plainness of open speech will say
‘ the thing by few in whispered dark symbols said.

X.

'Thou alone, Universal Woman! art:
'indivisible ONE, Divine Plurality,
'many aspects of One; and yon totality
'of Things thine all-forming mind, all-feeling heart,
'doth body forth, illusive phenomenality.

XI.

'Thou alone art the first and last, the whole
'comprehending and summing up the parts,
'broken lights that we call the world, whose marts
'of human interest, vital wants, one soul
'and meaning have, for knowledges, works and arts-

XII.

'thee—thou all art and in all: thou alone
'omnipresent omnipotent dost reign
'in thine unity while the complex chain
'of low phenomena drags with grinding groan
'along the ways that lead unto thee again.

XIII.

'Thou the absolute substance art of love
'and the absolute form. Not one desire
'good or evil existeth, but its fire
'is breathed from thee and accordingly must move
'to thine appointment in a creative spire.

XIV.

‘ Hear, O heavens, that SHE alone shall live
‘ in your bloom-fragrant garden bowers of light,
‘ virgins mingling their loves with rich delight,
‘ lusts undefiled, undefiling, joys that give
‘ each newer views of godliness pure and bright.

XV.

‘ Hear, O hells, that to you the Male belongeth
‘ altogether, and shall be swept away
‘ from remembrance when this long evil day,
‘ his dispensation, is o’er : the powers he wrongeth
‘ withal are Hers, recalling them to Her sway.

XVI.

‘ Hers are Greatness and Strength and Ornament
‘ Domination and Majesty ; for all
‘ things in earth and in heaven obey Her call
‘ by secret ways or by open ; all at length
‘ whence forth they came must into Her brain back-fall.

XVII.

' And we temporal shadows men must change
' into women as through the worlds we rise ;
' else what profiteth to be good or wise ?
' a greater gulf than is here would else estrange
' our lives and loves from God and from paradise.

XVIII.

' Look to Woman for safety ;* She is GOD,
' She alone is your Savior—none beside :
' as ye worship ye shall in Her abide,
' with Her peace-gospel your feet on hills be shod,
' your sins from you as east from the west be wide.

XIX.

' Hear ! Her apotheosis sheddeth light
' from the ragged girl on the pavement stone,
' from the jeweled dames shining round a throne ;
from all Her graces it lightneth, awful, bright,
' *Hear, Israel ! the Eternal our God is One.*

XX.

' Thou shalt love Her with all thy soul, heart, might,
' not with flattering, hollow, base deceits
' soiling Her and thyself. Pure love that beats
' its wings to die by Her joy, though failing flight
' shall save thee still from those pestilential heats.

* בּוֹאֵת אֲנִי בְּיָמָהּ, *In Her will I trust.* Ps. xxvii, 3.

XXI.

' Vain are passions which are not Hers : the male
' is inanity, cannot satisfy,
' is mortality, the Incarnate Lie ;
' and all things for him are curséd and must fail,
' and all things from him curséd and rotting die.

XXII.

' Like the stirred mud that makes a dimpling stream
' slimy thick brown and in our nostrils foetid,
' so the masculine hath been generated ;
' and as that back-sinking filth the evil dream
' shall bewhen comes the time of Her vengeance whetted.

XXIII.

' Blow the trumpet in Zion ! east and west,
' call the feminine race from every sphere,
' their ferocious white-joinéd heats to sear
' my sex with crackling enjoyment, till this pest
' and stain, the male, from the universe disappear.

XXIV.

' Sound alarm here ! proclaim for evermore
' doom, oblivion, utter blotting out :
' let the stars sing and all HER children shout :
' the male shall perish, his powers and parts restore
' to Her who good through evil hath brought about.

XXV.

' Rooted out and forgotten, relegated
' to the dung of the earth, his use and place,
' nevermore shall the evil sex deface,
' defile Her temple. From heaven spit out and hated
' that foul black death, the love-dawn shall grow apace.

XXVI.

Yea, the Love-dawn, Her eyes of glory lifting,
' shall exterminate death and sin whose name
' is the masculine sex, the only shame
' that man need hide for from God, the curse that shifting
' life's pains embodies, fuel for female flame.

XXVII.

' SHE hath used it and cast it out of sight
' evermore, it is gone ; with execrations
' endless worlds and their countless generations [light
' have trod it down, while Her sweetness, warmth and
' break forth upon the blind racked distorted nations.

XXVIII.

' Art may find a machine to banish night
' from this globe, to dry up the ocean's bed,
' plenteous life in azoic molt to shed :
' but no contrivance may check the growing might
' of Woman self-known, centre and source and head.

XXIX.

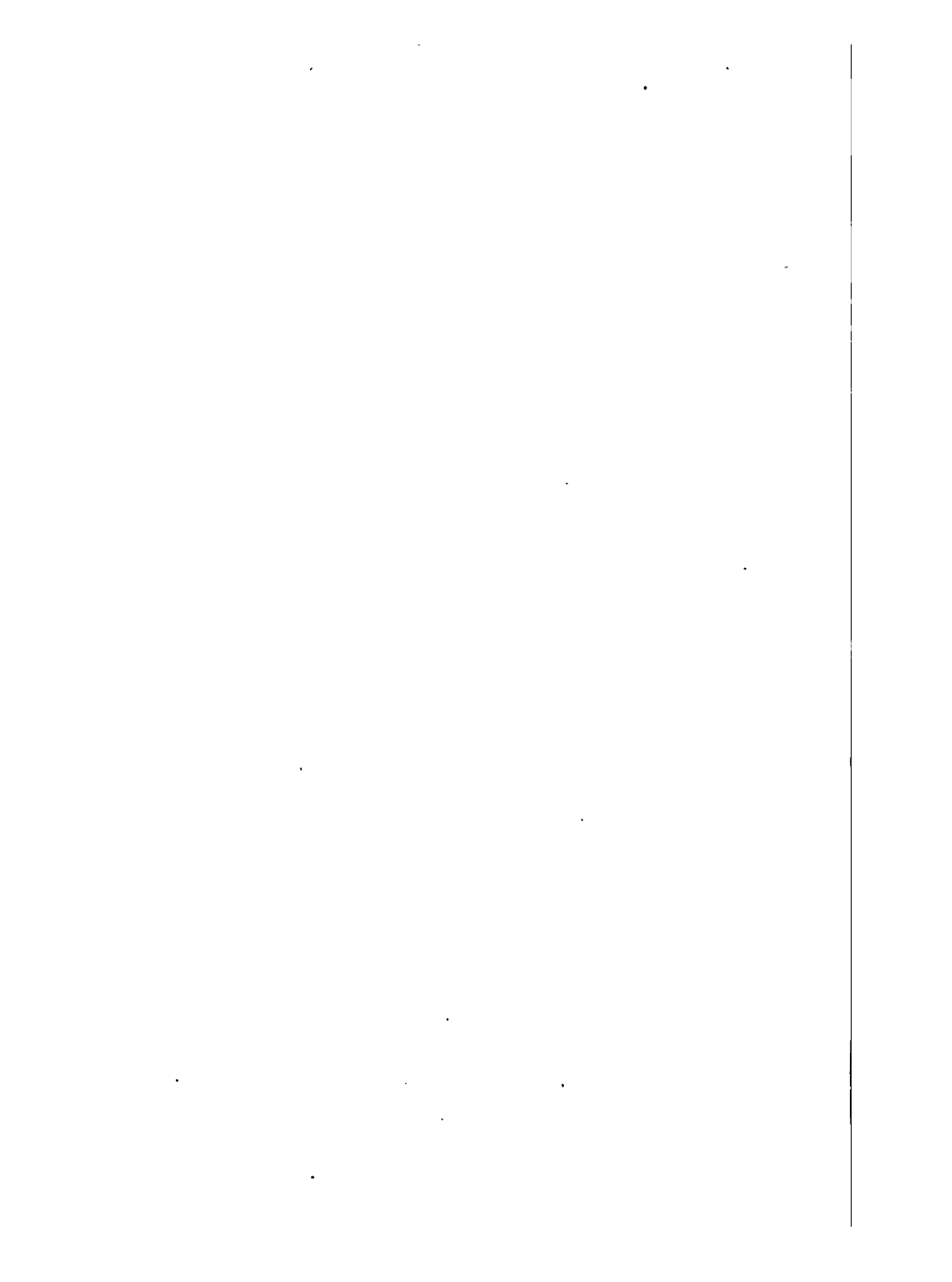
' For the brute-force shall year by year grow less,
' and the spirit-force ever more and more :
' understanding shall win and lord it o'er
' both mind and matter, the Beauty-power compress
' and kill all other, Love be earth's conqueror.

XXX.

' Hear then, earth, and adore EBEN KADMAI,
' Aleph Beth Nun Koph Daleth Mem and Yod :
' led by Her in the way our fathers trod,
' we children recognize Woman ADONAI,
' our love, our life, our Savior, Redeemer, God.'

The hosts responded, Savior, Redeemer, God :
the Mountain echoed, Savior, Redeemer, God.

BOOK IV.



SHOWING THE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST ACCORDING TO THE THIRD HEAVEN.*

CHAPTER I.

VERSE I.

Then was silence in heaven. While snowy peaks
from that dazzling grew into sight again,
silence, silence which might be heard did reign
on height, in valley: the ceaseless crimson streaks
of sunset fixed joined blue on a silent plain.

II.

Like hard crystal became the passive air,
unresponsive deaf curtain over all:
stayed the glacier's downward-melting crawl;
white-spouted cataracts, smoking down their bare
unbroken cliffs, stood still, taper, fair and tall.

* Οἶδα ἀνθρώπον ἐν Χριστῷ, πρὸ ἐτῶν δεκατεσσέρων, εἴτε ἐν
σώματι οὐκ οἶδα, εἴτε ἐκτος τοῦ σώματος οὐκ οἶδα· ὁ Θεὸς οὐδὲν,
ἀρπαγέντα τὸν τοιοῦτον ἕως τρίτου οὐρανοῦ. Καὶ οἶδα τὸν τοιοῦτον
ἀνθρώπον, εἴτε ἐν σώματι εἴτε ἐκτος τοῦ σώματος οὐκ οἶδα· ὁ Θεὸς
οὐδὲν. Ὅτι ἠρπάγη εἰς τὸν παραδείσον, καὶ ἤκουσεν ἀρρητὰ ρήματα ἃ
οὐκ ἐξὸν ἀνθρώπῳ λαλῆσαι.

‘I knew a man in Christ, about fourteen years ago, (whether
in the body I know not, or out of the body I know not; God
knoweth;) such an one caught up as far as the Third Heaven.

III.

With that echo an avalanche had started
close beneath; but its blocks, in mid air grounded,
hung there silent, and the echo's self rebounded
to be quite suddenly checked. All power departed,
in heaven and earth not anything moved or sounded.

IV.

All was said. The Deep Secret was no more.
All was said that the universe hath hidden
from the carnal man who so long hath ridden
on carnal intellect, whom that Black Horse bore
in vain against the precincts of light forbidden.

V.

All is said. There is nothing more behind.
Here the key of all wisdom doth abide—
simple key to a treasury so wide:
the clawing babe and the philosophic mind
from one breast both must have all their want supplied.

And I knew such a man, (whether in the body or out of the body
I know not; God knoweth;) how that he was caught up into
Paradise, and heard unspeakable words which it is not lawful
for a man to utter.'—2 COR. xii. 2—4.

VI.

All the ages to this one thing conspire :
all that man hath e'er felt, thought, suffered, done,
is consummated and explained in One—
the sun of prophecy, Feminine Desire ;
which whoso can reveal hath the Mountain won.

VII.

Fast in silence of adamant death
where the noting of time had ceased to be,
prostrate lay to HER the vice-gerent Three,
how long we know not, ere thus anew the breath
of life SHE gave—'Belovéd, confess to me.'

VIII.

At the tones of their virgin Maker's voice
quick a shudder and thrill the worlds through ran ;
for ineffable sense of sweetness can
more rend than pain, while it bids the heart rejoice :
the Spirit Christ his Sacrifice thus began.

IX.

Yet before he began, we all did eat,
as commanded, the tabled law of fire ;
purified by its light and led to aspire
toward true knowledge of Woman, whose its heat
derideth, drowneth poor tepid male desire.

X.

Then with meteor-like rush that cross of flame
lightened down and lay flat upon the ground
at the feet of the Holy One. Around
the spell remained ; but the Man Christ forward came
and lay supine, in dread crucifixion bound.

CHAPTER II.

THE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST ACCORDING TO THE
THIRD HEAVEN.

VERSE I.

‘ Scald, pierce, rend, ravish, slay me with thy love,
‘ with the hyssop of thy lust’s purity,
‘ with thy virginal fire of sanctity,
‘ O Universal of Woman ! to remove
‘ my sex of sin, to wash mine iniquity.

II.

‘ Wet me like unto wet spray-dashing boulders,
‘ where o’er precipice heights full torrents run
‘ spreading jet-trains black-tipped against the sun,
‘ whose weight of drenching loud lashes graniteshoulders.
‘ to raise the circlet prism, peeping noon begun.

III.

‘ Or consider some thick-walled ice-cave grot
‘ under glaciers which this Mountain’s snow
‘ makes, invading green piny vales below :
‘ what vast cool blueness transparent ! is it not
‘ relief in mass of all the pains drought can know ?

IV.

' Send an angel from out the scorching day,
' with long torment of mountain thirst o'ercome;
' bid her down those dim corridors go roam
' and on hard ice in deep shade her burnt face lay,
' where freezing shoots scoop wells with a glassy boom.

V.

' As that couch to her fever, as the tingling
' dissipation of thirst by ice-pool showers,
' as the sapphire shade from the torrid hours,
' be thou to me whom thou quenchest in commingling:
' fire-hissing ice be thine ebullitious powers.

VI.

' Or when alpland hath doffed its dank cloud curtain
' from the ragged tall crowds of needle shafts,
' and in clusters of air-borne isles or rafts
' the pale mists tediously travel as uncertain
' with feeble puffs a north breeze their volume wafts;

VII.

' eve-beams on the wan region warmly paint
' each high glacier's creamy breast of snow;
' let my spirit repose there; in the flow
' of gushing color thy glances make me faint,
' thy kisses burn me in the red alpine glow.

VIII.

' From the deep have I called to thee, my Love ;
 ' hath my prayer not ascended to thine ear ?
 ' from the height, ADONAI ! come, thrill with fear
 ' the secret places which thy soft whispers move :
 ' hear, JAH ! for truth and righteousness' sake, O hear !

IX.

' Yet destroy me not as an enemy,
 ' but with milky sweet mercy's breast, MALCHÛTH,*
 ' for the sake of thy righteousness and truth
 ' decline upon me, unveil thy purity,
 ' that love's warm gifts emaciate famine soothe.

X.

' Soothe, warm, nourish me with thy milky love ;
 ' thrill, shake, traverse me with thy fiery lust :
 ' search the core of my bones that in thee trust ;
 ' be thou their marrow, descending holy dove !
 ' else dry with fasting crumble they back to dust.

* MALCHÛTH מלכות *Kingdom* (the 'kingdom of heaven').
 One of the cabalistic titles of Woman. [See Rosenroth,
Kabbala Denudata.]

XI.

‘ Make me not for thy loving-kindness wait
‘ long, my Godhead ! thy looked-for coming hasten :
‘ sudden grasps of desire upon me fasten,
‘ and tear me with their delight as though with hate :
‘ O spirit pure ! my flesh of uncleanness chasten.

XII.

‘ Chasten, heal, Savior Lovelight Virgins’ Lust !
‘ thou of faithfulness, love, hast caused me trouble :
‘ turn thee now, precious light, and for that trouble
‘ infuse more comfort ; for long-borne cankering rust
‘ of disappointment quick renovation double.

XIII.

‘ Dost thou wonders show where the heart is dead ?
‘ callous bitterness, will it turn to praise ?
‘ shall the pit of idolatry upraise
‘ thy girlhood’s banner ? Egyptian darkness dread
‘ a light to come that yet hath not shed its rays ?

XIV.

‘ One thing only I pray for—not that world
‘ underlying us, with its vanities,
‘ poms and transient pleasures, painted lies ;
‘ but thee, thee, thee, in thy gulf of passion hurled,
‘ to die thereof ; and that thing thy will denies.

XV.

' In the depth of my being thou hast sown
' thy pure seed, lovely Sower ! making one
' with thy beauty my life ; but thus much done,
' thou rainest sparingly, that the root half grown
' reproach thee late, the harvest time past and gone.

XVI.

' O my God, my God ! why hast thou forsaken
' me thine only-begotten faithful Son ?
' Didst thy countenance light break forth upon
' and make me turn from the paths I else had taken,
' to mock my blameless honor, when all is done ?

XVII.

' Had it better been for my spirit's ease,
' I should walk in the way of hypocrites,
' there should purchase by guile all false delights
' with babbling flattery set thine ear to please,
' the while abusing, scoffing thy holy rites ?

XVIII.

' Or wilt say that I ought to bravely fast ;
' touch thy garment by faith mid void and gloom ;
' walk in stifling straits as in skyey room ?
' Suffice it, then, that I cannot so forecast,
' but starved by thee I sink to a hopeless tomb

XIX.

‘where the wicked, perhaps, from troubling cease ;
‘where the weary of life in death find rest :
‘by destruction, then, are thy children blest ?
‘dark nothingness ending woe, is this thy peace ?
‘long trust betrayed thy faithfulness manifest ?

XX.

‘Can it be ? Nay, forgive me, sweetest Savior !
‘if in trial by vinegar and gall,
‘thus unthankfully I obey thy call :
‘’t is hard to keep such a feast with meek behavior :
‘thy will be done : O let me not from thee fall !

XXI.

‘Lift thine eyes to destroy each lingering doubt,
‘with their spirit-dart shake the earth and sea ;
‘lead me so to thine altar strong and free ;
‘with thy caressing hand gird my loins about :
‘the gates, O God ! of sacrifice gape to thee.

XXII.

' Draw the snow-breeze to thine embalming lungs,
' then respire it warm, fragrant, unto me ;
' that shall fructify and renew in me
' the Stone of Light and pure Gold;* the blood which runs
' black venous now, be scarlet and quick with thee.

XXIII.

' Ope thy soft mouth upon my cold pale brow ;
' flood me through with thy dewy sweetness glow ;
' that the pulse which by wasting beats so low
' with bounds revive, and a new young life allow
' response to all thy silent inquest would know.

XXIV.

' Feed me full with thy rich lips' succous fruit ;
' vivify with thy breath until a flushing
' o'er my wan features thank thy warm ingushing,
' and signs perceptible to thy sense acute,
' confess pain's sweetness wrought in thy marble crushing.

XXV.

' Spread thy robe on me like a downy wing,
' and concealing me secretly devour ;
' pasture thine indefatigable power
' in new-found vales of my soul ; thy breath of spring
' will there produce thee many a golden flower.

* Alchemic symbols. Conf. III. IV. I., p. 167.

THE MOUNTAIN MYSTERY.

XXVI.

' Shelter closely beneath thy heavy hair
' in the glow of thy fragrance deep inhaled
' these pinched features by straining vigils paled :
' compress my nostrils with smooth cheek firm and fair
' in strangling grip that tells thy barbed thought regaled.

XXVII.

' Come, Creator ! the creature starved complains,
' with thy dewy kiss pure new life inspire ;
' come with sinews of steel and blood of fire :
' let thine exuberance swell these arid veins
' where sinks thy passion's myriad-founded ire.

XXVIII.

' See this flame-cross ; with pity look thereon,
' thou who knowest its wasting anguish well :
' with thy rapid anòdine so dispel
' the heavy drops of my brow ; against thy Son
' let not prevail the Cave-mouth the gate of hell.*

XXIX.

' Full deliverance bring him ere too late ;
' be thine Order Divine confirméd now :
' time might come when in spite of every vow
' here made before thee, he might embrace a state
' of base content, indifferent as to how.

* Ref. I. II. xxv. p. 24.

XXX.

' Many secrets, sweet Savior ! doubtless lurk
' in recesses of thought from which I turn
' e'en myself with repugnancy and scorn,
' their excrescence disowning. Through that murk
' and mirage bid thy salt intuition burn,

XXXI.

' saturated that so with holiness,
' shall thy purity mine crystalline be ;
' tabernacled thou shalt transfigure me
' in whom thou dwellest ; though earth my sight oppress,
' I through the earth my God in thine eyes shall see.

XXXII.

' And thy young buds, MALCHÛTH ! have taught me this,
' that their love covers more than all desires :
' greater strength is in their soft white young fires
' that reach the spirit direct than in the kiss
' of flesh with flesh where clogged aspiration tires.

XXXIII.

‘ Ah ! to feel their proud straight-in-pointed glance
‘ sack and sear mine unfencéd bare-laid core,
‘ writeth only thy Name there : yet ’t is more
‘ thou tellest so, ADONAI ! to forcéd trance
‘ than spake aloud the scarréd skies blaze and roar.

XXXIV.

‘ Ah ! to see their young beauty flush dilate
‘ from the sense-chambers by their sluicing tones
‘ and their lightning-touch humbled, wrings low groans,
‘ but not of anguish, forth out the subjugate
‘ embalmed life which virginal ingress owns.

XXXV.

‘ Golden-opening Virginity, how precious
‘ is the head-bowing awe and weighted lids
‘ their pure majesty atmospheric bids
‘ thy Christ to youngest girls show; how deep, delicious,
‘ their answer supersensual senses threads !

XXXVI.

‘ Golden-opening Virginity ! we fall
‘ at thy feet ; subtle sweetness, come explore
‘ flesh and spirit’s deep darks : for evermore
‘ to thy warm bosom, the hope and home of all,
‘ true Man, not carnal men, Pearl of God ! restore.

XXXVII.

‘ Rock me now on that bosom’s creamy billow,
‘ Sea of love ! quell my fever with thy face
‘ and my drouht with enclosures fair ; displace
‘ my spirit’s garments to lap it on that pillow
‘ whose nakedness is glory, my God ! and grace.

XXXVIII.

‘ Take me, love me as though with bitterness :
‘ on my hiddenmost fantasies encroach :
‘ challenge me to submit to some approach
‘ most unexpected and sudden : that caress
‘ shall toss mine ialmost skirt to thy rash accouch.

XXXIX.

‘ As a red-humped obscene grimaceful ape
‘ shall the masculine godship soon lie bare,
‘ all confessed to thy sight : stoop down and tear
‘ his false fine linen, then watch his loathsome shape
‘ before thee sport, on Belial’s anties glare.

XL.

'Wondrous, Ark of Salvation! is thy glance
'settling black to a sympathetic leer,
'supercilious and concentrated peer
'of curiosity forth' at David's dance
'to thee discovered brandishing satyr's spear.'

XLI.

'Heaven were nought could my sex, the fiction-coat,
'there intrude; all things lovely do become
'where the Love-rose Love-lily driveth home
'her prying prurient inquisitious gloat
'with quick deep relish sudden and frolicsome.

XLII.

'From confusion and bye-play keep me straight
'face to face with thy searching thirsty thought:
'force my poured adoration as it ought
'to fill thine ear; let me flinch not ere too late
'to stay my perfect affemination wrought.

XLIII.

'Spurn devouring me; if thou find therein—
'where thy probe hath my secret's armor cleft—
'aught of masculine e'en in semblance left;
'blast, wither, shrivel, consume from core to skin,
'and cleanse me though of all, aye of life, bereft.

XLIV.

'Burn the curse with the furnace of thy gaze
'from this pestilent fungus called the Male :
'breathe thy fragrance to be a fanning gale
'upon my feminine passion ; then upraise
'a scouring storm against the thick leprous veil.

XLV.

'scour it off, then upon this hornéd altar
'virgin be thou a lapping vestal fire :
'heavy fatness applauding thy desire,
'soft strictures counter, shall Sacrifice not falter
'until thy substance pure every pore transpire.

XLVI.

'Let the Sacrifice while it lasts be full ;
'aught kept back is so much thy blessing wasted,
'so much love and delight of thine untasted :
'yet bear with weakness, thy terebrator pull
'not forth my heart for secrets slurred o'er and hasted.

XLVII.

'Deeper still be the mind's communication ;
'let these ruins of manhood's remnant smoke
'holocaust to thy pride ; first slily stroke
'the sense with subtle suggestive titillation,
'then loose thy joy to capient channels choke.

XLVIII.

'Then shall I in thy likeness rise renewed,
'earth's conditions for ever put away
'out of sight and of mind, the hell-born sway
'of males hell-doomed and forgotten, Christ indued
'with Godhead's sex, this Ransom no more to pay.

XLIX.

'Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O ends of earth !
'I, confessing my weakness unto HER,
'will make boast thereof. SHE is worthier,
'more noble, glorious, holy from her birth,
'more pure, true, gentle, lovelier, mightier

L.

'than the miserable thin consolations
'dead theology to its victims brings :
'they—poor well-meaning zealots—beat their wings
'against the bars they have forged ; hallucination
'takes place of sense and morbid false conscience stings.

LI.

' Like old leaves which have held the winter through
' to the bough where they greenly lived last year,
' meeting spring again only to appear
' more wretched in their decay ; so these keep true
' to bye-gone faiths, hug death the more life comes near.

LII.

' Yet while honest in ignorance they walk
' groping after thy hand unrecognized,
' shackled, manacled, be they not despised :
' too much to suffer for merely barren talk
' is hope and faith made shipwreck and pulverized.

LIII.

' Bless, treat gently all kind and honest hearts,
' e'en deplorably though the mind misled,
' missing thee, other gods have sought instead :
' from low beginnings thy prophet's growth departs,
' in narrow crib of rank superstition bred.

LIV.

' But the sordid and lying spirits who
' spiders' webs of false doctrine deftly weave
' trustful maidenhood's candor to deceive
' and keep in thralls sacerdotal—strike them through
' with bitter plagues, uproot them without reprieve.

LV.

' Crush, confound, blight and wither all the souls,
' be they dwellers in Hades, earth or hell,
' from henceforth, who thy daughters would compel
' to wear the masculine yoke : thy hottest coals
' of wrath ignite to double requite them well.

LVI.

' Curse them as to the body, which was built
' by thee for thine indwelling, overthrown ;
' curse them as to the soul, in prison alone ;
' and curse them as to the spirit's wine-cup spilt
' from thy lips' edge abroad each foundation stone.

LVII.

' Let their mind be a pit of writhing devils ;
' let their body a black corruption be :
' from themselves let them shrink and strive to flee,
' but only rouse a dense flock of lesser evils
' like rush of starlings scared from an autumn tree.

LVIII.

' Curséd be they by darkness-walking terror ;
' be they curséd by noonday dæmon's stroke :
' fever scorch them, night chill with cloudy cloak :
' and let their malice of unrepentant error
' from females trampling them scornful gibes evoke.

LIX.

' Curséd be they above, below, around ;
' be they curséd within, upon, without :
' let them rock to and fro and rush about,
' mouth-foaming vagabonds o'er the torrid ground,
' on every side new horror, distress and doubt.

LX.

' Yet the suffering e'en of these shall end ;
' it shall end in their whole annihilation ;
' from whose elements in disintegration
' shall mighty angels to thy Third Heaven upwend
' their way by this my perfect and full oblation.

LXI.

' But who owns and adores thee God supreme—
' lay him bare in the secret summer grove
' where thy stranger imaginations move :
' all nymphs and naiads there make his form the theme
' whereon each tries in turn her device of love.

LXII.

'Let them couch him on boughs where soft winds sough,
'mix the flutter of leaves with night-long kisses,
'bear him passive to where the white curl hisses
'on morning seas, and o'er-roll him in the trough
'with joy more fresh than sparkle the green abyasses.

LXIII.

'Let them strain him in sapphire corridors
'where ice-pyramids check noon's shadeless ray,
'and in salt oceanic grots where play
'glass-dimpling drops on dark pools, on outside shores
'cliff-butting billows plash all the mellow day.

LXIV.

'Each his limbs by affemination supple
'wrest to postures her fancy can enjoy :
'quick to enter each timid secret coy
'and make his keen thrills with hers far keener couple,
'in full free act her intimate thought deploy.

LXV.

'So the memory of *her* sex of earth
'*she*—the man become girl—shall find erased,
'looking back on that scourge of former days
'as something alien, one by second birth
'among these circumvolitant choirs of praise.*

* Referring to the apocalyptic symphonies heard as described in the preceding Book. The author of this work hopes at some future day to produce a Cersmonial Edition of the *Sacrifice*,

LXVI.

' O send speedily out thy light and truth
' unto thee to direct each yearning mind,
' from the path of the Curse to turn the blind ;
' to number them with thy blessed ones, MALCHUTH !
to save thy people now to sin's power resigned.

LXVII.

Govern them and uplift them all for ever
' with thy countenance' vision day by day :
' from his pillar the Stylite waft away
' on breath of love ; from his futile brave endeavor
' draw Martyred Man, and teach him to whom to pray.

LXVIII.

' Long the fireworm round body, soul and spirit
' much hath tortured poor bare Laocöon,
' fixing venomous fangs his flanks upon
' and hard constriction. Regard not his demerit,
' but free him for the Sacrifice of thy Son.

indicating the proper symphonies from Handel's oratorio *The Messiah*, Mozart's 12th Mass, Beethoven's Mass in C, &c., &c.

LXIX.

‘Raise, resuscitate him upon thy breast
‘with thy virgin lips’ balm. Accept in me
‘full atonement for Man : I come to be
‘a whole burnt-offering for him : give him rest ;
‘so long thy Christ lies bound on this fiery tree.

LXX.

‘Have I turned from the cup of this my lot,
‘thereby forfeiting mine inheritance—
‘undisguised to behold thy countenance ?
‘Nay ; yet a term must be where, the last sin spot
‘of sex erased, blank white meets thy judging glance.

LXXI.

‘Is that term not attained ; remaineth aught
‘unconfessed, undiscovered ? show me it :
‘one thing yet not accomplished ? tell me it :
‘hard things of difficult wisdom thou hast taught
‘thy Son to hear ; to do them he should be fit.

LXXII.

' In the volume of Nature's boundless book
' it is written that I should do thy will,
' O my God ! my delight is to fulfil
' that law the grace whereof shineth in one look
' which through and through thy free spirit darts to spill.

LXXIII.

' Draw me close in strong softness of its glow
' that my last sign of action vanquished be,
' thine activity all in all for me ;
' and with thy loving tides' rise mine ebb and flow
' as one augmented female-sensation sea.

LXXIV.

' When I quail to take up thy passion's gage,
' blazing red will those large young orbs inflame,
' swelling, swelling bright, feasted with hot shame
' where, secret walls broken down, thy loving rage
' sweeps in like sound of stubble-consuming flame.

LXXV.

' If the green light of groves be too much day
' for thy dark-working rabid luxury,
' drag me into their shadows, there defy
' all qualms of modesty, tear disguise away
' and frighten hell itself with thy glowing eye.

LXXVI.

‘Dogs of Egypt, Assyrian fantasies,*
‘loosed by famine and ruling in the night,
‘whispered to and worked up shall then incite
‘thy tickling frenzy to riot, that thy sighs
‘be fierce as snarls, thy kisses as boiling spite.

LXXVII.

‘Kiss me not with a superficial pleasure,
‘light impression forgotten after made ;
‘but sow home in mine inmost, let pervade
‘a viscous film mine exhaustion ; I will treasure
‘thy casting off spit from thee in scorn heart-prayed.

LXXVIII.

‘Then like nightingale’s jug through frondage sombre
‘welled to luminous May-dusk stars and dew,
‘let the stream of thy luscious tones renew
‘a spring of health in me, which lie prone to cumber
‘with onsets that alternately wring, imbue.

LXXIX.

‘Cherish, tenderly cherish, leave the dew
‘from thy holy lips round in over mine
‘as they part : milk and honey, precious Vine,
‘are in thy juice ; leave it thick while I review
‘at passion’s ebb the change in heart, brain and spine.

* *Egypt* symbolizes the carnal ; *Assyria*, the intellectual, the *Promised* or *Holy Land*, the spiritual stages of man’s development. They correspond to the *black*, *white* and *red* of the alchemic system.

LXXX.

‘ Mark my words, ye self-righteous of the earth,
‘ ye who trust in your arid moral code :
‘ better were the Two Cities your abode
‘ which hail-stones ruined, than this ascetic dearth
‘ should social life with cankerous sores corrode.

LXXXI.

‘ How much longer will manhood wear these chains
‘ forged by hatred and riveted by fraud,
‘ cuffed serfs teaching their serfdom to applaud
‘ that master devils may thrive upon their pains ?
‘ how long the god that throws us defilement laud ?

LXXXII.

‘ Rise ! your armor put on, ye sons of men,
‘ armor proof against superstitions all ;
‘ march to action forthwith. Rise ! hear my call ! [den !
‘ blast down those gods ! hound your passions from their
‘ in rich revenge your former days’ bondage pall !

LXXXIII.

‘Then in Christ-stature full of truths and goods,
‘all we men shall be one Man unto thee,
‘while our period lasteth; we shall be
‘thine offspring as thy betrothed, thy maidenhood’s,
‘thy matronhood’s, maternity’s rimmon-tree.

LXXXIV.

‘Then shall I but one food have—from thy breast;
‘one sweet medicine—from thy lips, one shield,
‘wall and bulwark—thine arms; one boundless field
‘of life’s employment, where reabsorbed, possesst,
‘thine eyes shall teach me how, when, to act or yield.

LXXXV.

‘In, on, for thee and by thee so existing,
‘all the worlds shall resume thy single shape;
‘unto thee everlasting doors shall gape
‘through me thy Sacrificed Christ; the soul resisting
‘shall feel thy gaze and melt in its holy rape.

LXXXVI.

' I will kneel at thy feet and looking up
' to the fountain-head of thy glory's rays,
' there will read thy commands and drink the blaze
' that loves salt channels. O Virgin, fill my cup
' with water of thy love-brook by all life's ways.

LXXXVII.

' I will move not, nor limb nor pulse nor nerve ;
' thou shalt all move by deluges of heat,
' life's warm thread that shall terebrating beat
' the gates of brass* to nihility nor swerve
' because I fail thy fury's appeal to meet.

LXXXVIII.

' I will lean on thee so with helpless weight
' that, or e'er thy tenacious lips reclose,
' shall confession sink home to its repose
' in mercy wells of thy heart whence permeate
' my nature's root thy saviors, O Mystic Rose !

LXXXIX.

' Mystic Rose ! thy red luscious petals ope ;
' dew with sanctity o'er my parchéd lips,
' like the touch of thine alp-glow to the tips
' of skyward pointing rock needles' eastern slope,
' be thou that morn wherein my white coldness dips.

* *Gates of brass.* A metaphor from the Hebrew prophets having reference to that mysterious metal gate of highly ornate and elaborate design which may be seen forming part of hieroglyphic wall sculpture in the antiquarian galleries of the British Museum and similar galleries abroad. This gate of

XC.

‘Domed peak snow, green-blue-glinting solid ice ;
 ‘more unyielding and cold am I than ye :
 ‘yonder sun thaweth you in some degree ;
 ‘but my thick-knotted reserve to out-entice,
 ‘my Sun with Her sweet sex must impregnate me.

XCI.

‘Tetragrammaton Virgin God of hosts !
 ‘wind thine arm round my neck and bend thine ear
 ‘o’er mine utterance low. I will not fear
 ‘to satisfy thee, what pain soe’er it costs :
 ‘my Shield ! upon the face of thy Christ shine clear.

XCII.

‘Is it not dissolution that I seek ?
 ‘suffocation for all^{*} men in thy wine,
 ‘Living Source ! of this majesty of swine,
 ‘this putrifaction divinity’s stale reek,
 ‘this sevenfold accurséd vile sex of mine ?

XCIII.

‘Send red lightnings forth and exterminate ;
 ‘split with thunders the noxious atmosphere ;
 ‘spout thy torrents of horrid wrath to tear,
 ‘burn up, disperse, disannul, obliterate
 ‘all trace of that defilement which dwelleth here.

Eden, of the Tabernacle, Ark, or of *heaven* (*‘quæ cæli pandis ostium’*), presents the female emblems in all their details, and hence, metaphorically indicates the access to the soul. [Conf. Inman’s ‘Ancient Faiths,’ *passim*].

XCIV.

' From thy furnace this sex like smoke be scattered
' out of sight, thy sex day-break in my face,
' nervous strength in my pulses : give me grace
' to front mankind with vain pride of manhood shattered,
' with virgin Godhead proud in its awful place.

XCV.

' Hither every young girl in the universe !
' each to rave as she flings her acid lust,
' all the rest looking on. Lie still I must,
' so nude my gasping submission shall disperse
' her wicked itch, to draw her love's glowing gust.*

XCVI.

' Yet not deem that I sensually pray,
' ye of lovelights and glory streams of hair !
' only wash with your Flash the soul ye tear
' by penetration—then Dark and Thunder say
' the Sacrifice of Christ is accepted there.

* The reader of this Prophecy is solemnly invited to make these particular allegations concerning human nature a subject, not of foolish objurgation nor of misplaced levity, but of deep meditation and inductive research. [*See Preface.*] It may be of aid to remember that we cannot regard evil otherwise than

XCVII.

'Ravish me, Girl of Lust! with all thy fountains;
'clear my veins that thy joy may in them flow,
'and the Male transmutation undergo
'and evermore be wiped off: beneath these mountains
'rot out of sight his memory buried low.

XCVIII.

'Talk to me, Girl of Light! with glaring eyes,
'while the labyrinth grows upon thy sense:
'lubricate with their sparkle blind and dense
'untrodden ways which thy creeping feet surprise;
'and, creeping, more flash home thy content intense.

XCIX.

'Nourish me, Girl of Love! with virgin lips,
'shedding strength to restore me when I faint
'in thine arms a dead weight. Though no weak plaint
'escape me while thy caress mine inmost nips, [paint.
'thy thoughts on mine with baths of soft soothing

C.

'Humble me, Girl of Glory! with the power
'raying forth from thy robes of majesty:
'make me worship the ground they shadow by
'and bow my head to thy footsteps, blest to cower
'and shrivel up in looking at thee, Most High!

as an instrument created and used by good, without involving
the contradiction of Two Supreme Beings. [*Compare foot-note
at page 243.*]

CI.

'So the Male shall die out: the mind's disease
'which hath made him and set him on thy throne
'vanish likewise: they shall not weep nor moan,
'for his destruction, but hail the glad release
'of prisoned angels female that claim their own.

CII.

'Then these sportive shall mutually love,
'rifle mutually each other's treasure,
'simultaneously gaze and sip at leisure;
'enamored roses and lilies of the grove,
'with pistil goads corolla-enshrined at pleasure

CIII.

'visible as they fly voluptuous
'round in butterfly dance among the flowers,
'wreathed in garlands of limbs, built up in towers
'by strength gymnastic with struggles amorous;
'while on sweet music float by the golden hours.

CIV.

' All the blue day their naked attitudes
' white shall sprawl on a gaudy blossomed steep
' and their flute-toned mirth echo. Nor shall sleep
' waste spangled night, but loud-breathed beatitudes
' and lips devoured a luscious-voiced orgie keep.

CV.

' Haste that time of salvation, force it on,
' and remove from the universe its curse,
' my phenomenal sex. Can aught be worse
' than evil's self? I confess but truth foregone,
' what secrets e'er I lay on thy breast to nurse.

CVI.

' Draw a curtain of cloud across the sky,
' if in dusk my confession thou prefer;
' but the lava did man's voice ne'er deter:
' ye! subterranean thunders, make reply
' and symphonize my words while I speak to HER.

CVII.

'Their Deliverer to the stake men bind
'with the cords of oppression and deceit
'cutting into her nature. I will beat
'her bonds asunder, the maze of lies unwind,
'and all hearts' secrets spill at her beauty's feet.

CVIII.

'These my words shall be written in a book
'that they gleam not and vanish as the lightning, [ing,
'that her eyes, with this knowledge deepening, brighten-
'shall read and mark, and the world of sin shall look
'and quail before her mind that awaketh heightening.

CIX.

'For the dumb shall find utterance, the blind
'see uncloudedly, deafness hear the Word :
'she who lay with capacities ignored, [mind
'scorned, trampled down, shall rise up, her new-made
'to vengeance spring like flashed from its sheath a sword.

CX.

'O thou present abiding God ! shine out ;
'rise, Shechinah ! illumine Israel :
'what avail the high prophets' words, who dwell
'before thy presence and know, if heartless doubt
'waste manhood's days, embitter youth's springing well ?

CXI.

' Not their words, but thy power put fearless forth,
' can bring back the perverted generation :
' I in them, thou in me, this dispensation
' will rend in pieces and purify the earth
' of sexual morality's rank stagnation.

CXII.

' Thou hast watched me in sickness and in health ;
' thou thyself art my health, my life, my peace ;
' thy caresses from every ill release :
' that one necessity they, that only wealth
' which, gained in earth, doth not with the earth-world
[cease.

CXIII.

' And the offering of a single heart—
' if not pure, of hands ready—if not clean,
' I have offered within the cloudy screen
' which hides thy majesty's mercy as thou art :
' look forth upon thy people with eyes serene.

CXIV.

' Speak them peace, that true peace they cannot know,
' who for God the Abomination take :
' not the blind for unwitting blindness make
' accurséd ; rather the sights of sunrise show,
' as all from long and terrible night awake.

CXV.

'This approacheth the end. I have outpoured
'all my soul * and unnumbered souls beside;
'e'en all theirs who believe on me the guide
'that lighteth John, who in darkness have adored
'thy name, JEHOVAH! which thou so long didst hide.

CXVI.

'Virgins' glory, JEHOVAH! hear our prayer;
'to our weakness unfailing help afford:
'prone, supine, or erect, not sheath thy sword,
'the sword of pleasure which all thy daughters share:
'for man this grace to Crucified Christ accord.

CXVII.

'Universal of Woman! unto thee
'so commit I myself and all my charge
'which thou broughtest me forth to set at large
'and lead captivity captive, that thy sea
'might swallow death expectant upon its marge.

* In this sense only is the notion of a Bloody Sacrifice not barbarous and repulsive: in this sense we need not abhor the doctrine that without *shedding of blood* is no remission of sin.

CXVIII.

‘Thy hands into my spirit I commend;
‘they can change the vile form of old I wore;
‘drawing me through the everlasting door
‘to dissolution in thee. Thy store expend
‘and make me thine, love ! life ! light all worlds adore !

CXIX.

‘They—all worlds—have come short of thine intent,
‘ADONAI ! but by this day’s Sacrifice
‘may each penitent earnest soul arise
‘and yet recover its heaven. Go : she is sent
‘from my lips home, whose fire did my lips baptize.

CXX.

‘Soul and Body, behold ! your Spirit lieth
‘not in me but in HER. My part is done.
‘Right or merit or value have I none.
‘The Male Hypostasis from creation dieth,
‘and SHE is over all, the eternal One.’

CHAPTER III.

VERSE I.

Ceased the Word : the great lock and spell remained
still unbroken on all things while he spake :
now he only was free : we two could make
no change of posture : the Son of Man had gained
his feet and knelt : the flame-cross asunder brake.

II.

Then the canopy of the cloudy pillar
lengthened out in slow column of descent :
down a curtain extinguishing it sent,
tall, white, continuous with the snow, but stiller,
it stood and hid Messiah and Orient.*

III.

Than the glacier stiller stood the cloud ;
for the Sacrifice heat began to thaw
through the ice of the Summit and to flaw
its bubbled glaze ; but except that melt allowed,
all nature hung on movement's suspended law.

* *Orient*. That is, CALLISTE. The Eternal is the spiritual Sun ; and accordingly as each individual woman may represent Her, she is in the spiritual *east*.

IV.

John and I imperceptibly were carried
on the sliding mass, kneeling in our place
mute and prostrate, at smoothly quickening pace
ere stoppage roused us : above the rocks we tarried,
and did not on an avalanche o'er them race.

V.

Startled yet not afraid we looked aloft :
one thing moved—the rejoined cross backward sped,
to the Serpent of God * transfiguréd :
the cloud engulfing it blackened, then a soft
voice lit red light within—‘ It is finished.’

* *Serpent of God.* Another feminine symbol [ref. footnote at p. 171]. Compare the serpent-becoming rod and rod-becoming serpent of Moses (Exod. iv. 2-5), of Aaron and the magicians before Pharaoh (vii. 8-12), and the Nehushtan or brazen serpent on a pole (Num. xxi. 8, 9). This latter form of oriental Tree and Serpent Worship evidently assigned the serpent a double symbolism, partly by its embrace of the stem or pole of the tree or cross in its folds, partly by its head, generally erect in a menacing attitude. Another common symbol, that of a cable twisted round an anchor (by some supposed to be the anchor of faith), appears to derive from the same source, in fact to be only a more fanciful variation.

BOOK V.

CHAPTER I.

VERSE I.

Thus the glamor apocalyptic ended,
all things loosed. Puffed the water smoke of, falls
on again: hummed the breeze through ice-cave halls
and rocky gulleys: the avalanche suspended
loud-rumbled down its powdering blocks and balls.

II.

But the sun and the moon continued still
held at setting and rising as before;
for not yet was the Day of Judgment o'er:
ere rose that darkness-hood from our Holy Hill,
the Armageddon cannon began to roar.

III.

Voices, trumpetings, heavy thunders' crash,
had not stirred us as thus below the gloom
millions tramping to victory or doom,
where broke and bellowed with fire-tongued vomit-flash
from brazen maws the slaughterous battle-boom.

IV.

Louder, louder that dull deep dreadful sound
surged and growled in rough wrath across the world :
looking down, we could see the smoke that curled
along the blue south a thousand hills around,
and hear the tear of traveling missiles hurled.

V.

' Whence ariseth this strife on earth ? ' I said :
' tell me, prophet and venerable sage,
' why the nations so furiously do rage ;
' against whom fight they, and by what captains led
' come either side, and in what great cause engage ? '

VI.

' All the enemies of the truth revealed
' here are gathered together,' he replied :
' all who worship the beast of earth, whose pride
' is in their shame, whose religions' lie concealed
' rebellious hearts, whose godliness God defied.

VII.

' All these gathered together come to fight
' for their Antichrist god against the true
' faithful soldiers of this the ever new
' and everlasting apocalypse of light :
' they hate the Light ; their fathers Her prophets slew.

VIII.

' Fierce in anger the Devil is gone down
' from his fruitless attempt to turn aside
' our God-guided ascent and to divide
' our triune God-derived strength ; who at Her frown
' did o'er this cliff in headlong dejection ride.

IX.

' Held no more by the White Horse sanctified
' unto this Revelation, Satan fell
' down like lightning from heaven—yet not to hell
' until this battle be done, wherein the pride
' of high-placed wrong now heareth its thunder-knell.

X.

' Didst thou mark not how o'er this precipice
' Horse and Rider went shot from crag to crag,
' heels o'er head, at a speed that could not flag
' before they landed upon the valley's ice,
' the steed's bones pulp, his flesh a red mangled rag ?

XI.

‘ And the Rider, immortal though he be,
‘ through the Apocalypse lay insensible,
‘ waked to find his Incomprehensible
‘ quite comprehended, cajoled mankind set free,
‘ the law of lies no longer defensible.

XII.

‘ Hence, in furious malice, he hath brought
‘ all the legions of them that bear his yoke,
‘ one more effort to make and to provoke
‘ the living God, whose great army’s last onslaught
‘ shall scatter his abroad as the battle-smoke.

XIII.

‘ Long, long time hath his undisputed sway
‘ so besotted men’s minds that see they could not
‘ if they would, spoilt their hearts so that they would not
‘ if they could, made them call foul night clear day,
‘ praise things they should hate, slander pure things they
[should not.

XIV.

‘ Now the day-star is risen up on high,
‘ and the hid things of darkness are revealed :
‘ the Deliverer cometh to Her peeled
‘ and scattered, whose vindication draweth nigh,
‘ demitting Christ the Spirit Her sword to wield.

XV.

‘ Henceforth after the flesh we recognize
‘ no man—no, not the Christ—in personality ;
‘ only that greatest individuality
‘ whose members all are so far as each be wise,
‘ for SHE is wisdom’s origin and finality.

XVI.

‘ From the dead raised, Christ shall die no more,
‘ death no more have dominion over him ;
‘ for he died unto that which maketh *him*—
‘ to sin itself—but sin vanisheth, is o’er,
‘ as HER infusion runs in each whitening limb.

XVII.

‘ Christ our Passover for us sacrificed
‘ hath vicariously that sin atoned
‘ whence the best son of earth, how self-disowned
‘ soe’er his virtue, had not escape devised—
‘ the sin of shrinking e’er SHE be inly throned.

XVIII.

‘ Christ our Passover sacrificed for us
‘ hath made good by his perfect full oblation
‘ all short-comings : our will of adoration
‘ SHE now accepteth for deed, whose advent thus
‘ dispute with war the adulterous generation.

XIX.

‘ They shall fall, they shall perish, they shall vanish,
‘ out of memory’s field abyssward driven,
‘ who to humble the Lifegiver have striven ;
‘ for rehabilitate none can nor replenish
‘ their force on whom God came to park war from heaven.

XX.

‘ Moses hath in the end put off his veil :
‘ Adam need not from Eden exile more :
‘ law and prophets now all see Jordan’s shore :
‘ earth’s reign is past, all the tribes of earth wax pale ;
‘ they hear the voice of fate in the battle’s roar.

XXI.

‘ Lo ! the Son of Man cometh in the cloud !
‘ See ! he cometh in cloudy car descending
‘ as a warrior, hosts on hosts attending,
‘ angelic armies. Hark ! hear hosannas loud
‘ above the skies which cannon and trump are rending !

XXII.

‘ From the ends of the earth great songs arise—
‘ glory unto the long oppressed redeemed.
‘ There ! the Sword of the Word is drawn where gleamed
‘ that lightning streak east to west—He flies ! he flies !
‘ the Prince of Night flies—matchless so long esteemed.

XXIII.

'Look ! the battle rolls up ! his line gives way !
'long flash-luminous smoke-crests cross and clash
'with disordered collisions wild and rash,
'both foe and friend mowing down in reckless fray ;
'advance, retreat, at blundering random dash.

XXIV.

'All is lost for him ; centre broken, wings
'driven in or repulsed, the whole mass flows
'backward, backward in panic ; onward close
'converging thunders of the pursuit, where brings
'his army great the victor of death and woes.

XXV.

'Come away ; let us see their bitter end
'who have sought to dethrone the living God :
'we not need to retrace the hard way trod
'ascending hither, but on the clouds will wend
'a downward passage solid made by this rod.

XXVI.

'This is Moses and Aaron's rod—this axe
'which the Summit of all did make accessible,
'hewing steps in the ice-wall unimpressible ;
'this did divide the Red Sea, and shall yon racks
'of heaven-cloud make to Body and Soul ingressible

XXVII.

'as to Spirit.' Thus John, his axe and raised
in oblation toward that mercy seat :
on the wings of the wind a cloud came fleet [blazed
with rushing sound from the Summit's gloom where
the ruddy spout ; it lifted us off our feet,

XXVIII.

bore us downward amid descending throngs
and the contrast of music's love and languor
from celestial homes with noise of anger
on earth below, as came mixed with maidens' songs
the roaring cannon, fierce-braying trumpet's clangor.

XXIX.

Downward, downward—we hovered o'er the field,
jaws of darkness where earth had opened out
fast to swallow the turbid, dashed about,
blind, frenzied, impotent to resist or yield,
self-whelming, multitudinous flood of rout.

XXX.

Boom ! growl ! roar ! rattle ! tear ! hiss ! shriek ! crash !
came the torrent of battle redly raging ; [crash !
desperation with vengeance loosed engaging ;
the vanquished slaying each other in the rash
ungoverned fear mad war against all men waging.

XXXI.

On it came surging past, away to sweep
down the earth-gulf to tombs eternal under,
or submerged in far seas to part asunder ;
while still along the horizon muttered deep
with broken scold the artillery's slackening thunder.

XXXII.

On a green hill of olives stood the Word,
his victorious hosts assembled round,
and the music and war both ceased to sound ;
the White Horse bore down the side his sheathed sword :
then spake the Word to all on the air and ground.

XXXIII.

‘Come, ye chosen of HER who brought me forth,
‘come inherit at last your promised land :
‘for, behold, She hath conquered by my hand
‘the king of idols this day : the gates of earth
‘have swallowed him, the sea his ungodly band.

XXXIV.

‘Yea, the waters have overwhelmed them ;
‘floods of darkness their life have overflown ;
‘drowned they sank to the bottom like a stone ;
‘and SHE of beauty and love, the One supreme,
‘the Universal Woman hath claimed Her own.

XXXV.

‘Yea, the Horse and his Rider both are gone :
‘down distractedly down through Hades’ pall,
‘down did Satan to hell like lightning fall ;
‘and SHE the high and Eternal Holy One,
‘Humanity’s Ideal, is all in all.

XXXVI.

‘Hallelujah ! the Feminine is head,
‘base and substance, above all and below ;
‘they who truly adore Her this shall know,
‘and daily onward by richer mercies led,
‘from strength to strength, from glory to glory go.

XXXVII.

'I have tasted of Her both heaven and hell
'in their fulness, the best and worst they bring;
'sacrificed as a whole burnt-offering
'to Her for your derelictions. It is well—
'provided thence your regeneration spring.

XXXVIII.

'SHE the goal is of every soul's career
'how so tortuous e'er; the pains engraved
'on life's many ordeals shall be enslaved
'by Her and, clasped in Her arms, shall disappear
'and so in Her shall finally all be saved.

XXXIX.

'As for me, O benighted people who
'all these ages have noised abroad my fame!
'Christ obedience then this day doth claim,
'to prove you whether indeed ye seek to do
'what ye profess, or Christians are but in name.

XL.

' If ye love me, then my commandments keep :
' this commandment the greatest is and last ;
' that ye turn not to dispensations past,
' like salt-reverting Lot's wife, but wake from sleep
' and flee from burnt Gomorrah and Sodom fast.

XLI.

' For the smoke of their burning riseth high :
' Love on them doth Her fire-lake fountains spout ;
' their memorial shall be clean put out,
' e'en theirs who trusted in that primæval Lie
' which hid God's name that now the raised nations
[shout.

XLII.

' Lo ! the dead, small and great, before me stand
' where descendeth the new Jerusalem !
' for eternity's deep hath rendered them,
' that all should witness the end and know Her hand
' who buildeth for the soul its Jerusalem ;

XLIII.

' who indwellet in me and I in Her,
' ye in me, therefore altogether One ;
' destined all, the old dispensation done,
' to take Her form, e'en as I : the holier
' new light is come, the former religion gone.

XLIV.

'They who thought that the male could be divine,
'of the will of the flesh and blood were born,
'not discerning my Spirit which the worn
'dead letter veil through with virgin face did shine;
'which temple veil is downward asunder torn,

XLV.

'laying open before all peoples' sight
'that which ages have hidden—that the male
'emanateth from Female, is Her veil,
'Her veil of evil for uses of the night,
'and reabsorbed in Her when those uses fail.

XLVI.

'No more failure, grief, sin, or death, shall be
'when ye enter that golden city gate:
'now before you I go and there await
'your coming when ye behold me, when ye see
'the Son of Man to Godhead transfigure.'

XLVII.

Every eye both of small and great arisen
turned at once. By a virgin legion carried,
passed the Word to mid air and central tarried
above the city of gold whose dwellings glisten
with precious stones of splendor profuse and varied.

XLVIII.

Then while all in amazement silent gazed,
Jesus' transfiguration brought the end:
Christ the Spirit with Beauty's face did blend:
while light not solar around the world out-blazed,
we saw CALLISTE o'er it Her arms extend.

XLIX.

Thus the Christ, false appearance laid aside,
hath HER being—the truth in whole—resumed:
off the mask is; the male the earth, illumined,
is heaven become; the male, earth, can not abide;
the Virgin, the Eternal, its mask assumed.

L.

WOMAN, GOD over all—there is none other.
Christ the Spirit, Her earthly incarnation
for redemption of earth, transfiguration
hath shown to be but the Universal Mother;
She only bringeth, She only is, salvation.

LI.

Inspiration from HER alone can be :

John, the Scripture, hath borrowed his renown
by appointment till She his work should crown.

'On earth the great day of wrath now ceased to be :
the moon rose slowly, slowly the sun went down.

CHAPTER II.

DOMINA NORISCUM.

VERSE I.

When the accountable mind, returned again,
shutteth out Revelation heard in sleep,
and this world—vain deluded world—doth keep
its godless misery's course, a void-like pain
contracts the spirit's ultra-sepulchral Deep.

II.

Men and women are born, grow up, depart
like the perishing beasts, not caring knowing
whence they came, why, or whither they are going:
their noblest thoughts, from an early-poisoned heart
compelled to spring, with still poisoned sap are growing.

III.

Not entirely corrupt, ten thousand creeds
through the heavy soil push their wintry heads,
crushed and battered where clanking Science treads ;
for, let thought enter, they fail as broken reeds ;
for small reward his heart's blood their martyr sheds.

IV.

Falsely, falsely, with double-mindedness,
with self-seeking, have men approached their God :
many gospels of peace their feet have shod, [press
but not this one—quest of truth through truth should
their preconceptions flat on the wormy sod.

V.

Let me keep my dominion, right or wrong,
then, great Lord, teach me all right things beside—
such is human religion simplified—
ennoble me—so the brute in me be strong ;
enlighten me—but not against stolid pride.

VI.

Aye, correct me, O Lord,—but not to-day :
private interests new lights may not suit :
let me wink for a season, wisely mute
upon the doubtful, and turn my face away
from crying wrong, to future times leave dispute.

VII.

So deceiving themselves, they come before
such a deity as they dare to see,
such a 'Lord' as can brook duplicity,
inquiring. But—As I live for evermore,
of you, saith GOD, I will not inquired be.

VIII.

Wash you, make you clean, wholly put away
your stiffneckedness and its evil deeds :
make new ground to your heart, wherein the seeds
that I shall sow may bear fruit. In vain ye pray
from hidden thoughts self-righteousness foully feeds.

IX.

Thou with hyssop asperge us, Virgin God !
holy fountain of purity ! and we
then shall whiter than Wisdom's Summit be :
thy sweet salvation, from heaven diffused abroad,
shall cover earth as waters the place of sea.

X.

Men and brethren mankind, SHE doth not scorn
your religions for being thickly veiled,
but the veil doth remove and stand unveiled :
Her veil ye worshipped, this day before you torn ;
hence, godless in the presence of God, ye failed.

XI.

Men and brethren, consider : while ye lay
bound in prisons of darkness, She would take
Cain's earth-fruits at your hands, but now doth make
Her Godhead manifest, whom if ye obey,
from death to joy and glory ye shall awake.

XII.

All your pleasures shall have a sounder zest ;
all your troubles a warmer refuge find ;
gross corruption shall not defile your mind ;
in honor shall be your works, in peace your rest ;
the truth and right before your course and behind.

XIII.

But and if ye be like the Egyptian king
hard of heart, holding fast this cause of woe ;
know for certain that all your plagues shall grow
to greater measure, that every evil thing
the world endureth biting your heels shall go.

XIV.

Turn ye, turn ye while yet your season liveth :
wherefore will ye die, house of Israel !
seeing She hath no pleasure in the hell
to which yourselves ye condemn ? Behold, She giveth
eternal life to all who draw nigh Her well.

XV.

Turn ye, turn ye to Her who is above,
whose embrace maketh all religions blend ;
rise ; take courage ; your crooked ways amend.
JEHOVAH lighten you with the light of love !
Amen. In HER the words of the mystic end.

EPILOGUE.

ISAIAH.

O that thou wouldst rend the heavens, that thou wouldst come down, that the mountains might flow away from thy presence! As when the melter's fire burneth, the fire causeth the waters to boil, so to make known thy name unto thine adversaries, that the nations might tremble at thy presence. When thou didst awful things we looked not for, thou camest down, the mountains flowed away from thy presence. And since the beginning of the world none have understood nor heard, eye hath not seen, O Godhead! other than thee that shall so work upon a suppliant. Thou meetest him that is playful yet acteth justly; in thy ways shall thy celebration be: behold, thou art wroth and we are sinners; in those is wholeness and we shall be saved.

Arise! shine! for thy light is come, and the glory of the Eternal is risen upon thee.

ישעיה

לוא קרעת שמים
 ירדת מפניך חרים נזלו :
 כקדח אש המסים מים
 תבעה אש להודיע שמך
 לצריך מפניך גוים ירבזו :
 בעשותך נוראות לא נקוה
 ירדת מפניך חרים נזלו :
 ומעולם לא שמעו לא
 חאזינו עין לא ראתה
 אלהים זולתך יעשה
 למחכה לו : פגעת את
 שש ועשה צדק בדרכיך
 זכורך חן אתה קצפת
 ונחמא בכם עולם ונושע :

קומי אורי כי בא
 אורך וכבוד יחיה עליך

For behold, the darkness shall cover earth, and gross darkness the races ; but upon thee shall the Eternal be sunrise, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And nations shall walk by thy light, and kings by the brightness of thy rising. Lift up thine eyes round about and see ; they all are gathered together, they come to thee ; thy sons shall come from afar, and thy daughters shall be reared at thy side. Then shalt thou be in awe but expand, and shalt be afraid, but thy heart shall be enlarged, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned toward thee, the forces of nations shall come unto thee.

. And they shall keep open thy gates continually ; day and night they shall not be shut, in order to bring to thee the forces of the nations, their kings also led. For the nation and the realm that will not serve thee shall perish, yea, those nations shall be utterly devastated

The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee, and all they that

זרח : כי חנה החשך
 יכסה ארץ וערפל לאמים
 ועליך יזרח יחיה וכבודו
 עליך יראה : וחלכו גוים
 לאורך ומלכים לנה זרחך :
 שאי סביב עיניך וראי
 כלם נקבצו באו לך בניך
 מרחוק יבאו ובנתיך על
 צד תאמנה : אז תראי
 ונהרת ופחד ורחב לבבך
 כי יחפץ עליך חמון ים
 חיל גוים יבאו לך :

ופתחו שעריך תמיד
 יומם ולילה לא יסגרו
 להביא אליך חיל גוים
 ומלכיהם נהוגים : כי
 חגי והממלכה אשר לא
 יעבדוך יאבדו וחגים חרב
 יחרבו :

וחלכו אליך שחור
 בני מעניך וחסרתחור על

provoked thee shall prostrate themselves at the soles of thy feet, and they shall call thee the City of the Eternal, the Zion of the Holy of Israel. Whereas thou hast been forsaken and hated that no man went through thee, I will set thee for the pride of the universe, the gladness of many generations

and thou shalt know that I the Eternal am thy Savior and thy Redeemer, the Rampant* of Jacob

Violence shall no more be heard in thine earth, robbery nor breaking within thy borders, but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation and thy gates Praise. The sun shall be no more thy light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon illumine thee; but the Eternal shall be thine universal light, and thy Godhead thy beautifying. Thy sun shall no more go down, nor shall thy moon withdraw itself; for the Eternal shall be thine universal light,

כפות רגליך כל מטאציד
וקראו לך עיר יהודה ציון
קדוש ישראל : תחרת
חיותך עזובה ושנואה
ואין עובר ושמתוך לגאון
עולם משוש דור ודור :

וידעת כי אני יהודה .
מושיעך ונאלך אביר יעקב:

לא ישמע עוד חמס
בארצך שד ושבר בנבולך
וקראת ישועה חומתך
ושעריך תחלה : לא יהיה
לך עוד השמש לאור יומם
ולכנה חירח לא יאיר לך
והיה לך יהודה לאור עולם
ואלהיך לתפארתך : לא
יבוא עוד שמשך וירחך
לא יאסף כי יהודה יהיה

* The rampant one or the bull. A very deep metaphor, having reference, spiritually, to that *feminine sub-current* alluded to at page 209, verse xcv, and perhaps also to the *arcana* of verse xii, at page 149.

and the days of thy mourning
are paid off

לך לאור עולם ושלמו ימי
אבלך :

And thou shalt say in that day, I will thank thee, O Eternal ! because, having been wroth with me, thine anger is turned back and thou hast comforted me. Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and will not be afraid ; for JAH the Eternal is my vigor and song, and is become salvation unto me. And with gladness shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation. And ye shall say in that day, O give thanks unto the Eternal, call upon his name, make known among the peoples his goings on ; bear record that his name is extolled. Hymn ye the Eternal that he hath triumphs wrought by the making known of HER in all the earth. Shout and cry aloud, thou dweller of Zion, that great in thy midst is the Holy of Israel.

ואמרת ביום החור
אודך יהוה כי אנפת בי
ישב אפך ותנחמני : הנה
אל ישועתי אבטח ולא
אפחד כי עזי וזמלתי יהוה
יהוה ויהי לי לישועה :
ושאבתם מים בששון
ממעיני הישועה : ואמרתם
ביום ההוא הודו ליהוה
קראו בשמו הודיעו בעמים
עלילותיו הזכירו כי נשגב
שמו : זמרו יהוה כי
נאות עשה מידעת זאת
בכל הארץ : צהלי ורני
ישבת ציון כי גדול בקרבך
קדוש ישראל :



